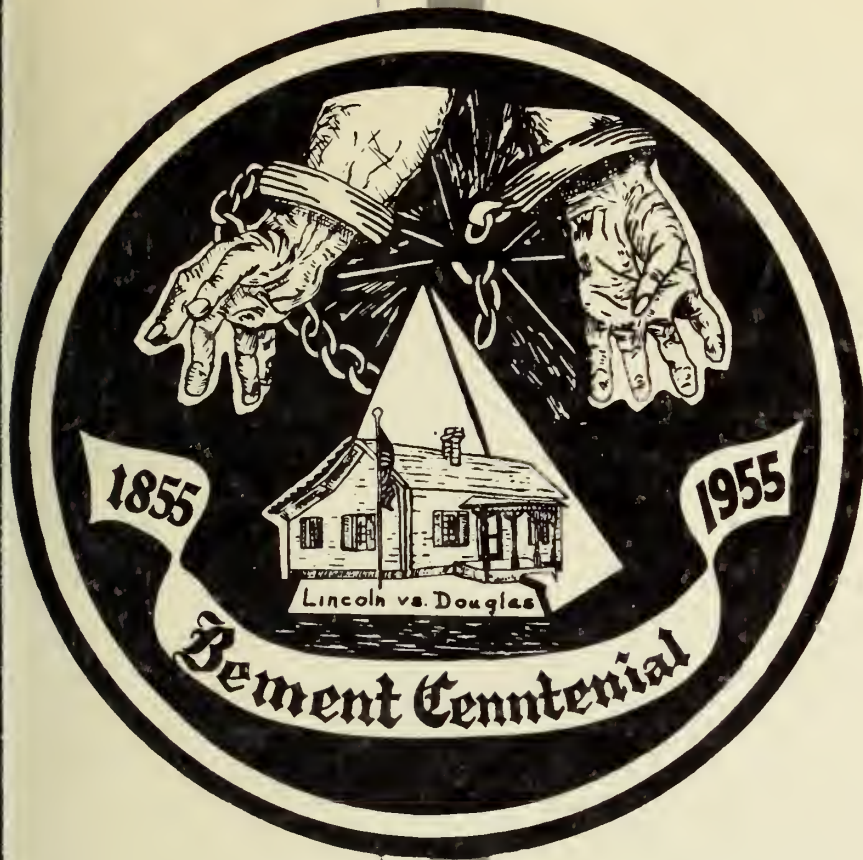


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The BEMENT STORY



FOREST PRESERVE PARK
Bement, Ill.

VILLAGE OF BEMENT
BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Greetings:
As Mayor of Bement this Centennial year, it is
a distinct honor and pleasure to extend a most hearty
welcome to each and every one attending our celebration.
It is a privilege to welcome home our former Citizens
to this Great festival, made possible by the people in
Bement and surrounding community.
Out of swamps and prairie Grass that one time covered
this state, has come the rich farm lands we are so proud
of today and Bement is most fortunate to be a part of this
Great farming community.
Again I say "welcome" and extend an invitation to
each and every one of you to help us celebrate these
"one hundred years of progress".

Sincerely,
Lynn Crook
Mayor



A SHADY STREET Bement, Ill.



977.3673
B4236

Ill. Historical
Survey

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

1204

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=Int'l Letter Telegram

VLT=Int'l Victory Ltr.

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

Clark Plummer

C V PD GOVT ML Washington D C March 30th 1955

Bement Ills.

Chairman Bement Centennial Corp.,

To you and your fellow Citizens of Bement I send congratulations on its One Hundredth Birthday. I am glad that your celebration will focus attention on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and other historical Events. My best wishes go to all of you for your Community progress through the years to come.

Dwight D Eisenhower.

727 AM.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD

WILLIAM G. STRATTON
GOVERNOR

March 31, 1955

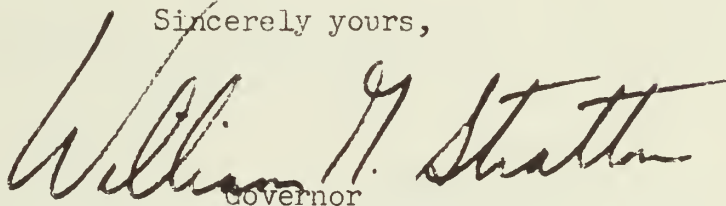
Mr. Charles C. Strohl
Chairman of Publicity
Bement Centennial Corporation
Bement, Illinois

Dear Mr. Strohl:

My attention and interest has been drawn to the coming Bement Centennial Celebration.

It is gratifying to know that this historic anniversary is to be given appropriate recognition. I hope the entire series of planned events will be well attended and notably successful.

Sincerely yours,


Governor

WGS:nd



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1955

Dear Mr. Strohl:

My congratulations to the community
of Bement on attaining its first Centennial.

May your second hundred years be
filled with accomplishment and good works!

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Richard Nixon

Mr. Charles C. Strohl
Chairman of Publicity
Bement Centennial Corporation
Bement, Illinois

PREFACE

This year we, the residents of this community, are celebrating the 100th birthday of Bement. The purpose of this Centennial Celebration is three fold:

1. To honor those early pioneers who settled on the prairie of Illinois and created this community.
2. To have a lot of fun.
3. To develop a better community spirit, and thus make Bement a better place in which to live.

Bement is not a great city. It is a good town, a quiet, friendly town that smiles a welcome to you. A town of shady streets and lawns where children can laugh and play. A town of homes and schools and churches. A good town in which to live.

"The Garden of the Lord" — That is the way George L. Spear, Bement pioneer, described Bement. How aptly that describes the Bement of today. A Bement that has progressed from swamps and tall prairie grass to a community surrounded by rich farm lands, its many tall trees, its modern homes, churches, schools, and its fine, friendly people.

It would be impossible to give a complete history of Bement and the people who have lived here during the last 100 years giving credit where it belongs. Therefore, we in no way claim this book to be a history of Bement.

We have gone through a great many of the existing records, talked with individuals, read old newspapers and books and have tried to bring you in the limited space available some of the things that we feel have been of importance and general interest.

We hope that this book will be of some value in bringing back memories of things gone by and serve as a record of this Centennial Celebration.

Dedication

To those early pioneers of Bement and community who, by their courage, industry and faith made it possible for the people of today to celebrate 100 years of progress.

To all those who have, do now, or ever state with pride "Bement is my home," this brief history is sincerely dedicated.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BEMENT CENTENNIAL CORPORATION



CLARK PLUMMER
Chairman



R. N. HOLLOWAY
Vice Chairman



CARLETON SMITH
Honorary Chairman



KEITH M. BELL
Secretary



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EDWARD KANITZ
Director



H. E. SLUSSER
Director



LYNN CROOK
Director



FINANCE DIVISION

Reading from left to right—Front row: William Gorrell (Underwriting), Mrs. Rose Knapp (Sisters of the Swish), Mrs. Evelyn Fair (Novelties), John Pope (Brothers of the Brush). Back row: Francis Phillips (Historical Program), F. E. Lincicum (Concessions), Dick Merry (Decorations), John Hardimon (Chairman of Finance Div.), Harry Slusser (Official Hat Comm.)

PUBLICITY DIVISION

Reading from left to right: Front row: Charles Strohl (Chairman), Mrs. Betty Miller (Beautification), Mrs. Leona Holloway (Distribution), Mrs. Martha Glennon (Press). Back row: A. R. Ayers (Radio & T. V.), H. E. Slusser (Speakers), William Gorrell (Promotion), R. R. Siders Jr. (Photography). Absent from photo Willard Morton (Square Dance).



SPECTACLE DIVISION

From left to right— Front row: Mrs. Margaret Marker (Properties), Walter Slater (Chairman), Miss Isabelle Houston (Costumes and Make-up). Second row: George Wilkinson (Construction), Roy B. Jones (Cast), Lew Wilkinson (Scenaria and Title). Absent from photo A. E. Bodman (Building and Grounds.) Stanley Powell (Spectacle Music).

SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION

From left to right—Front row: John Marker (Advance Tickets), Frank Yeates (Gates and Ushers), L. A. Hodam (Reserve Seats). Back row: James D. Raglan (Div. Chairman), E. A. Stout (Queen Contest).



SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION

Reading from left to right—Front row: John Vaughan (Historical Windows), D. E. Shonkwiler (Fireworks). Back row: William Fleming (Parade), Dan Siders (Celebration Ball), J. K. Steidinger (Chairman).



HOSPITALITY DIVISION

Reading from left to right—Back row: Robert Still (Transportation), Clarence Janes (Traffic and Safety), Carl Edwards (Chairman). Front row: Mrs. Ruth Patterson (Homecoming), Mrs. Cordelia Davis (Housing).



Reading from left to right—Back row: Dave Marker (Chairman), Joe Rittenhouse (Wednesday), Howard Hill (Monday), Ralph Moery Jr. (Friday), Rev. Ross Fleming (Sunday). Front row: Ralph E. Wright (Saturday), Bran Wilson (Legal Advisor for Centennial Corporation), Mrs. Howard Moore (Tuesday), Milford Bentley (Thursday).

Sunday—Freedom of Religion Day
Monday—Callithumpian Parade Day
Tuesday—Old Settlers Day
Wednesday—Illinois Day
Thursday—Young American Day
Friday—Agriculture Day
Saturday—American Freedom Day



To all to whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

Whereas, *Articles of Incorporation duly signed and verified of*

BEMENT CENTENNIAL CORPORATION

*have been filed in the Office of the Secretary of State on the 12th
day of November A.D. 1954, as provided by the "GENERAL NOT
FOR PROFIT CORPORATION ACT" of Illinois, approved July 17, 1943, in force
January 1, A.D. 1944;*

*Now Therefore, I, CHARLES F CARPENTIER, Secretary of State of the State of Illinois,
by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby issue this Certificate of
Incorporation and attach thereto a copy of the Articles of Incorporation
of the aforesaid corporation.*

In Testimony Whereof, *I hereto set my hand, and cause to
be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Illinois.*

*Done at the City of Springfield this 12th
day of November AD. 1954 and
of the Independence of the United States
the one hundred and 79th.*



Charles F. Carpentier
SECRETARY OF STATE



PASSPORT TO BEMENT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

has paid the sum of One Dollar to become an Honorary Citizen of Bement, Illinois. This passport also permits the bearer to enjoy diplomatic immunity to all Centennial fines, and grants the privilege of a citizen to sell, horse trade, or in general, shoot the breeze with any firm or merchant.

1855 — Bement Centennial — 1955

July 31 Thru August 6



THE EARLY HISTORY OF BEMENT

This is the story of a town—a very small town, located in the heart of these Illinois Prairies—cradled on the black earth of these Illinois farm lands. This is the story of the early days of a prairie town—our town—this is “The Bement Story.”

It all began over one hundred years ago when Joseph Bodman of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, heard of the building of a new western railroad across the prairies of Illinois. Here was a chance to grow up with the Land! Pioneers would follow that railroad across the wilderness of the prairie. Towns would grow up along side of it. Prairieland would become farmland around it. Grow up with the land! A man of vision could see that! A man of great hope—and great faith—and great dreams could see that!

And so he came, from the far-away hills of Massachusetts, past the wooden buildings of sprawling Chicago, down the great Illi-

nois Central to the pioneer hamlet of Bloomington, out to the flat prairie lands and swamp lands that lay south of the ridge, south of Monticello, Piatt County, Illinois.

Finally, on Christmas Day, 1853, Joseph Bodman, L. B. Wing, and Henry P. Little, halted upon the ridge which divides the waters of the Sangamon and the Kaskaskia, halted and looked southward—three solitary horsemen on a lonely knoll.

L. B. Wing later described it this way:

“It was a beautiful day, that Christmas Day of 1853—like autumn, rather than winter. A magnificent view, limited only by the powers of vision, was before us. It was like looking out upon the ocean. No farm, no orchard, no living thing or sign of human habitation! Everything, so far as we could see, was just as it had been for centuries. We knew that in the groves of timber that skirted the water course, a few pioneers had built their cabins and for years had supplied their

simple wants by hunting and a little farming of the most primitive sort. But their proximity was not apparent to us and in no way dispelled the sense of complete solitude that oppressed us.

We dismounted and threw ourselves upon the sunny slope to enjoy the view and debate the question whether it was likely that this prairie, after remaining hundreds of years, was now about to attain any particular value. All who preceded us had evidently come to the conclusion that it was like air and water, valuable and necessary, so far as it could be used; but it was in too large a supply to be worth buying. Was it likely that the little span of time represented by our lives, that this condition would greatly change?”

And so they came, saw the countless miles of treeless prairie, saw the grass tall as a man's head. Saw, and for a moment doubted, miles and miles of worthless prairie land. But they were men of vision—and faith—

and plain Yankee shrewdness. And they saw, not what was on the prairie, but what **might** someday be.

After consulting their maps and riding over the land they drove stakes, selecting adjoining tracts so they wouldn't lose each other and in 1854 they secured titles to all the land they could afford at \$1.25 per acre. Joseph Bodman bought 6000 acres of this prairie land, swamp land, grass as tall as a man's head land, seemingly worthless land. Six thousand acres of "What could it ever be good for" land, home of the deer and prairie wolves and prairie rattler—a great sea of grass.

The year following, the deer and prairie wolves were startled from their homes by an engineering corps surveying the route for what is now the Wabash railroad. L. B. Wing in 1854 sold to Hunt and Carter (agents for the Great Western Railroad) 33 acres of land in section 19 for \$1.00.

Mr. Joseph Bodman, L. B. Wing and Henry P. Little donated the ground upon which the original town of Bement was laid out. Bement was surveyed and platted in the winter of 1854-55, and the plat was filed on April 5, 1855. In 1855 Bement consisted of a few stakes driven in the ground and only one log cabin between here and Monticello—the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph



Joseph Bodman

A. Alvord. And here the carpenters stayed while they built the first house in Bement that year, April 1855. Mr. Bodman went back east and persuaded six young men, some of them carpenters, to come to Bement and "grow up with the country." They were: J. M. Camp, J. H. Camp, W. H. Ellis, T. T. Pettit, Marion Pettit, and Charles Smith. These were the first settlers of Bement.

J. M. Camp built the first house for Joseph Bodman. It is located at 217 W. Bodman street and is now the home of Mrs. Burleigh Creel and her daughter, Miss Guynell Creel. Mr. Alvord hauled the lumber for the house from Champaign. When completed, the house was occupied by a Joseph Nye and his wife, who kept boarders.

Later this same year, Mr. Bodman built the second house in Bement. It was located just west of the first house and is now occupied by Bill Slagle and his family. When completed, it was occupied by Joseph Alvord. Soon after, Mr. Bodman erected a small office building, the first business building in Bement. This building was used for various purposes including a post office and train depot until the railroad moved one here in 1856.

In 1856 Mr. L. B. Wing built the third house in Bement and it was occupied in the spring by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Force. The lumber for this house was shipped from Chicago. (This house was located on the southwest corner of Wing and Morgan streets where Bob Glennon is building his new home this year). Mr. Force planted 100 acres of wheat at the south edge of the original town in the fall of 1856 and harvested an abundant crop in 1857. This is the first record of a crop here.

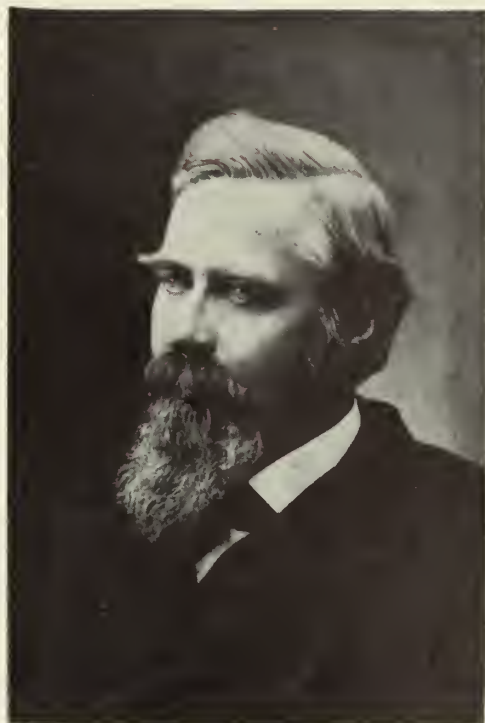
The fourth house built in Bement was an Irish shanty along the railroad. Here in 1856 the first birth and death occurred in Bement—a child of the James family.

The years 1856-57-58-59 saw the arrival of other pioneers, many of whom settled here or on nearby farms. Among them were S. K. Bodman, Thos. Postlewait, F. E. Bryant, Edmund Davies, Luther Bodman, James McDowell, R. McDowell, Amos Stout, H. B. Burgess, Wm. Camp, Elihu Fisher, W. D. Coffin, J. C. Evans, C. F. Tenney, Thomas Lamb, Charles Lamb, Albert Lamb, and others.

Mr. F. E. Bryant, in whose home Lincoln and Douglas met in 1858 to make arrangements for their famous debates, arrived in Bement July 26, 1856. He immediately began operating a grain, coal, and lumber business.

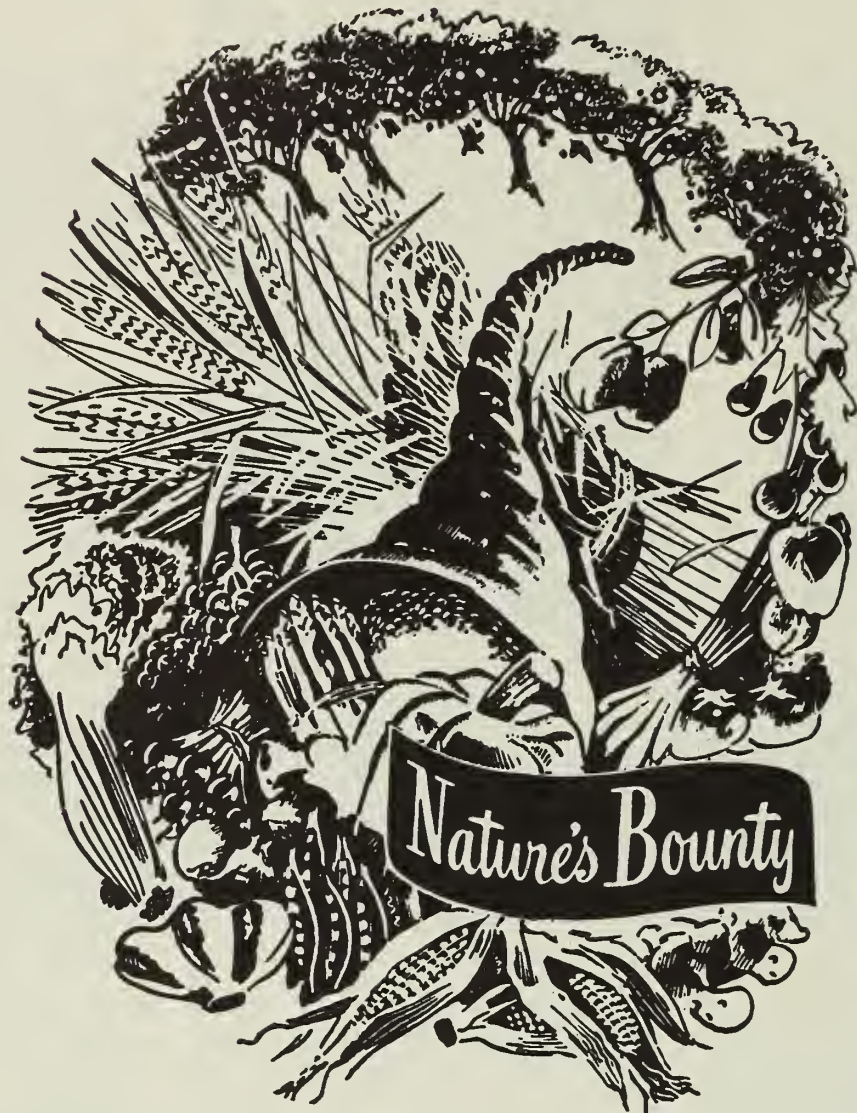


John Mallory Camp, builder of first two houses in Bement, first school-house, first Presbyterian Church, and many other buildings.



L. B. Wing

"The Garden of the Lord"



Mr. George L. Spear in writing the history of Bement in 1878, gave a vivid description of the beauty and richness of our native prairie. He concluded that surely this is

"The Garden of the Lord"

We have been privileged to serve this fine community for over 40 years and, as Bement enters its second century of history, it is our sincere desire to render the best possible banking service so that together we may always be good stewards of

"The Garden of the Lord"

State Bank of Bement

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

The next year he started a general merchandise store, the first in Bement, and later built several business buildings. He was known (according to George L. Spear) as Bement's pioneer tradesman, and like Joseph Bodman, was identified with every worthwhile project for the growth and improvement of the village. (Emma Piatt's History states that Mr. Bryant's family was the seventh in Bement.)

The first hotel, the Sherman House was built in the fall of 1856 by John Townsend, a Canadian, who kept a hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public and for the few boarders who were waiting for something to show up. This hotel survived for a period until it was moved to make way for a new towering structure, the Masonic building. It was followed by the Pennsylvania House which was built in 1858 by James and R. McDowell and Thos. Postlewait. (This hotel was later known as the Hotel Rennick.) The Pennsylvania House later became the principal hotel and soon "ranked with the first-class houses on the line of the Wabash road". Bement's first depot was located north of the present scout headquarters. Stephen B. Hawks was the first yardmaster, being appointed in November 1857. Switching was done by a yoke of white oxen hitched to the freight cars by a log chain. Mr. Hawks also had charge of the pumping of water for the railroad and it was also his duty to "rack up" four cords of wood each day for the night trains. He served until 1870.

The first Sabbath-school, a union one, was organized in May of 1856. Meetings were held in Bodman and Camps warehouse.



Mr. John McNamee and his daughter Nellie McNamee in front of their Variety Store on Bodman street. This building is now occupied by L. J. Forcum.



A depot was moved from Decatur in the winter of 1856, and Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Pettit reported that the first sermon in Bement was preached by Mr. Samuel Harshbarger in the new depot.

The first school election was held November 10, 1856. Joseph Bodman, Aaron Yost, and Henry C. Booth were elected directors. Henry Booth was employed to teach the first three month term at \$40 per month. The first school was taught in a dwelling built by Wm. Pickens.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Bement was the first church to be organized in Bement. It was organized in 1858 under the pastorate of Rev. Rutledge. Meetings were held in the school house and in Bryant's Hall.

The first flour mill in Bement was erected in 1858 by D. H. Rust in Bodman's addition near the railroad on the south side. The mill did a big business and was the pride of Bement until it accidentally caught fire and burned in 1860.

Louis H. Alvord was born in 1858—probably the second child to be born in Bement.

After this, the settlers came to Bement too fast for us to be able to trace their order of arrival.

1859—Bement was growing and Rea's addition was added to Bement. There were about 50 students in school, which necessitated the building of a school building. It was located on the present site of the grade school building and was completed in June, 1859. J. B. Lowell was employed to teach at \$28 per month and was instructed to hire an assistant at \$17 per month—the first teachers in Bement's first regular school building.

Mr. C. F. Tenney moved to Bement in 1859 and said that at that time Mr. Bryant had the only dry goods store in Bement. There were no sidewalks and the streets were not graded, and there was not a tree in the town.



Camp and Tenney building with Town Pump in foreground.

BOWEN MOTOR COMPANY

281 E. BODMAN

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Bowen, Props.

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Distributor of

STUDEBAKER

The Oldest Automobile Manufacturer in America Today

Est. 1852

Salutes . . .

BEMENT, ILLINOIS on its 100th ANNIVERSARY

1955 Studebaker

STILL SETS THE PACE

in advanced style

May the spirit of the Centennial Celebration in Bement
set the pace for prosperity, improvement
and success in the years ahead

Visit our Showroom while enjoying BEMENT'S CENTENNIAL
JULY 31st thru AUG. 6th, 1955



There were just enough ladies in town who danced to form one set. He recalled that a favorite pastime on a Sunday afternoon was to drive to the timber to lie in the shade of a tree. The mud was so bad that a wagon would mire down in the middle of the street and teams frequently had to be pulled out with extra teams or oxen. In wet times it was impossible for the ladies to be on the streets, and in dry times the fleas in the corn-cob sidewalks made it most undesirable for them to be out. And there were millions of green-head flies and mosquitoes to add to the misery of the early settlers.

The Death of Miles Conway . . . Late in the autumn of 1859, Miles Conway who lived a little to the east of the village was on his way home, carrying on his person about \$1200. A man by the name of Godfrey followed him and soon overtook him. Godfrey beat and stabbed him until the attacker was frightened away as help came to the rescue. When the men reached Conway, he was able to tell them the identity of his assailant. However he was too weak from loss of blood to help himself, so they carried Conway to a nearby house and sent for Dr. Elam Bodman to dress the wounds and administer stimulate to revive the patient. Mr. Conway lingered under treatment for about a month before he died. The assassin was pursued all night and was finally captured in a thicket a little east of Monticello. At first he was sentenced to 14 years, but he obtained a

new hearing and was finally sentenced to only 10 years.

1860—Bement was incorporated as a town in 1860. The first Board of Trustees were: Joseph Bodman, J. C. Sparks, F. E. Bryant, C. F. Tenney, George L. Spear, and E. B. Sprague. **Bement is the only town in the United States with this name.** A Mr. Bement, an official of the Great Western Railroad, promised to donate a bell to the first church organized in town, if the town were named after him. However, he did not live to fulfill his promise.

Bement's first newspaper, The Bement Union, started publication in April 1860, with Mr. James Shoaff as editor. The Bement Register dates from 1890 to the present—(65 years.)

A Literary Society was started in the winter of 1860-61. It was

an important organization in the lives of the early settlers and contributed much to their cultural welfare.

Corn was 10c a bushel and times were tough.

1861—Bement was still growing and Mansfield Freeze addition and Bodman's addition were added to the town. A Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in September of 1861, but the church did not last long and we have no record of when or why it was disbanded. The Masonic Lodge was organized on January 26, 1861. It was one of the strongest and most influential organizations in the early history of Bement.

1862—The Christian Church was organized on January 19, 1862.

The Civil War—(April 12, 1861 to April 9, 1865 . .)

We have no record of important developments during the Civil War Period, except that Piatt County was a staunch supporter of the Union cause and had more volunteers in proportion to the population than any other county in the State. There was the difference of two brothers by the name of Williams; one joined the Union cause, and the other the Confederate cause. Then there was the incident of the train carrying soldiers that got stuck in a snow drift near Bement in the winter of 1864. It was stuck for three days and the soldiers nearly ate the town out of house and home.

In 1862, S. K. Bodman (nephew of Joseph Bodman and father of Mrs. W. A. Hammond, Miss Clara Bodman, Edgar Bodman, and J.



An industry that helped probably more than any other to rid this land of surface water was that of the Bement Tile Works. In the Spring of 1882 Elcock and Rhinesmith started these works. A few years later the firm was known as Elcock and Sultzeberger. Finally C. F. Tenney became sole proprietor. This concern manufactured not only tile, but also paving and building bricks. The old tile yard was located on the grounds of our now beautiful Forest Preserve Park.

The Good Old Days Are Gone Forever!



The
Modern Way
is the...

SUPERWAY

THEN . . . A feller could . . .

Get his cornpads and cough medicine, pick up his mornin' mail, grab a pickle out of the wooden keg to tone down his mornin' appetite, get his vittles for the week, and his seegars, too, all in the one and only store in town. Friendly Joe, the proprietor, knew all the town gossip, too, and even furnished a spittoon fer the convenience of his customers.

TODAY . . . A feller can . . .

Not only get his cornpads and cigars, but find articles unheard of in the "good old days" in our friendly, complete, modern home owned food center. Goodness knows, times have changed, and so has the Superway. Being friendly and helpful is a very important policy, but improving our store and its facilities to meet our customers demands is also greatly stressed.

Elton and Dorothy Haynes . . . Dick and Alice Lucille Merry

Lee Lawson . . . Mazo Sinclair . . . Nancy McCollum

Charles Lawson . . . Buddy Shonkwiler

H. & M. SUPERWAY

BEMENT

— PHONE 2551 —

ILLINOIS



Old Presbyterian Church

L. Bodman) purchased the drug store operated by his uncle, Dr. Elam Bodman. S. K. Bodman had come to Bement in 1856 and taught school here and in Goose Creek township for a few years. He then went back to Ohio for a year or two before returning to Bement to make his home. In 1866 he built a two story brick building that still houses the Bodman Drug Store. It is the oldest business in Bement in continuous operation by the same family. Edgar Bodman has operated it since 1903; S. K. Bodman—his father—having died in 1902. For a time the drug store was used as a postoffice with S. K. Bodman as postmaster. He was first appointed during Lincoln's administration. In all, he served 16 years as postmaster.



Bodman Drug Store. Also serving as Post Office.

This building also houses the W. A. Hammond Jewelry Store. Mr. W. A. Hammond started in business in Bement in 1895 and this year marks his 60th year on Main Street, making him the senior business man in Bement.



W. A. Hammond, Bement's senior businessman.

1866—An addition was added to the school, the cemetery site was purchased and a Library Association was formed.

1867—Prior to this time the Catholics of the community were served by Rev. A. Vought of Decatur. In 1866 the idea of building a Catholic Church here was conceived, and in 1867 a 26' x 46' building was erected at a cost of \$2100. This building was located on West Moultrie street where Joe Rittenhouse now lives.

Irwin Lodge No. 344, Bement, Illinois, I. O. O. F. was instituted by a charter granted October 9, 1867.

1868—

The First Presbyterian Church was organized August 29, 1868.

Mr. William and Horace Halde- man and G. C. Nichols built a mill in Bement. This was one of the most perfectly equipped flouring mills in the state, having the full roller process and every improvement known to the manufacture of the best grades of flour. The mill was the best and largest in the county.

George Harper - Cattle Thief

For many years, a farmer now and then, here and there, would occasionally miss from their herds a fat steer. At length, sus-

picion rested upon one George Harper and some time during the year of 1868, money was raised to employ a detective by the name of Bidwell to try to obtain proof. In less than a week, Bidwell notified the interested parties and conducted them to the slaughterhouse of George Harper, where they at once identified a fat steer belonging to L. B. Wing. Sheriff George Miller was called and they hid in a nearby cornfield to wait for Harper to return. About 5 P.M. George Harper and his son returned to slaughter the animal. As soon as the beef had been knocked down and throat cut, and while their hands were yet red with blood, Sheriff Miller and his posse sallied forth entering the den of perfidy and ill-gotten gain, stepped forward and read the warrant and made the arrest. Harper escaped from the jail at Monticello while being held for trial. He was later traced to Kansas where he met his death in a gun battle.

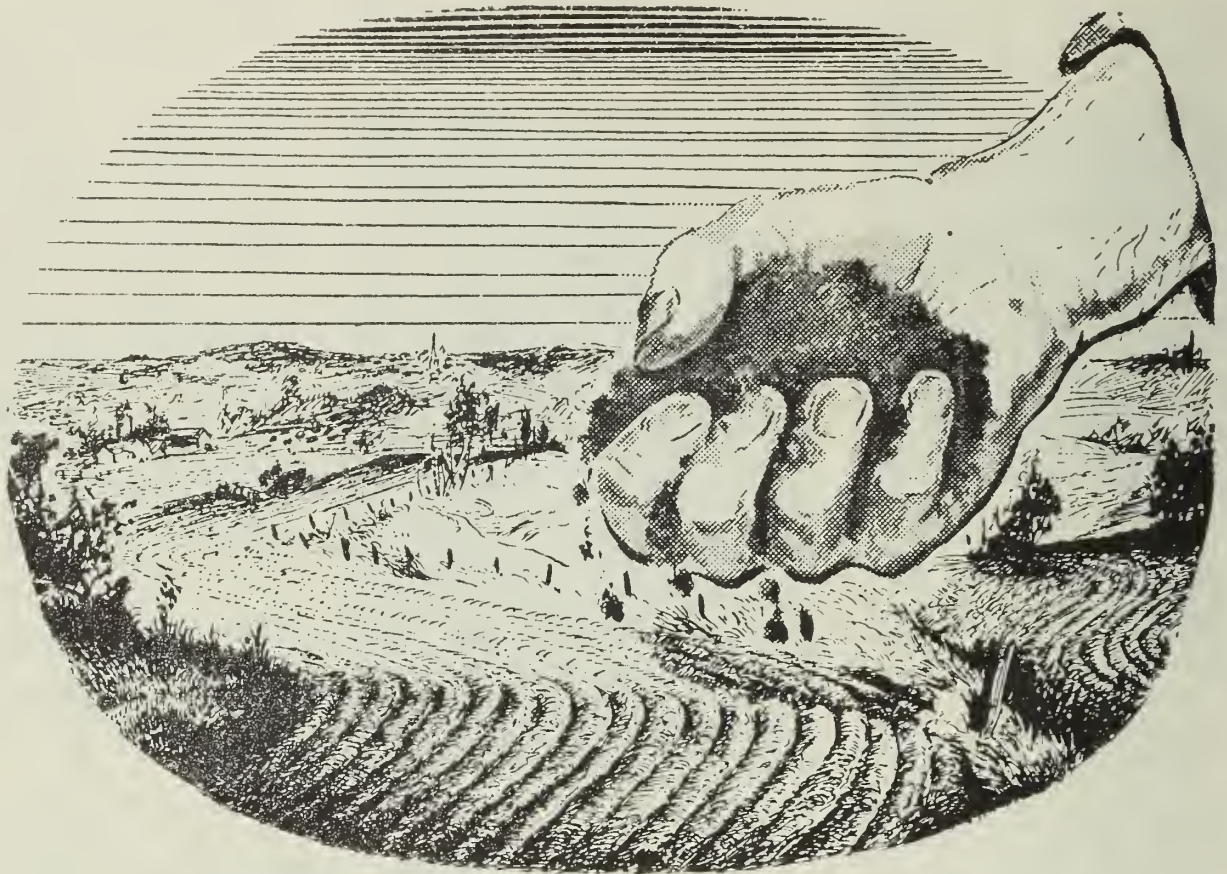
1871—

Murder of Sylvester Buckley

Sylvester Buckley kept the hotel on Bodman street where the Masonic Building now stands, from the close of the Civil War until his death, which occurred on the 23rd day of December, 1871. The circumstances of his death created considerable excitement in the village. He had become very drowsy and finally had passed out on the floor of the dining room of the hotel. Most people thought it was due to too much liquor, but finally upon closer examination, they found him to be dead. Suspecting foul play, a post-mortem examination was conducted and it was found that he had died of an overdose of morphine. Upon investigation, they obtained a confession from James Ready (alias Dick Turpin), who was a guest at the Hotel at the time. He was later convicted of the crime and was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of 14 years.

1873—

The railroad going north, which is now the Chicago division of the Wabash, was completed and put into operation through the county in 1873. This road was formerly called the Chicago and Paducah, and was laid by the Bloomington and Ohio River Railroad Company, which was chartered in 1867.



**DON'T LET PROSPERITY SLIP
THROUGH YOUR FINGERS**

WE INVITE YOU TO CONSULT . . .

Moore Farm Service
In Bement, Illinois for . . .
MORE PROSPERITY IN YOUR FARMING EFFORTS

LIQUID FERTILIZERS

MAX MOORE — HOWARD MOORE — HOWARD MOORE, JR.



1876—

The cornerstone for the Masonic Building was laid on May 25, 1876. The site is the same today, and the building is the same except that the original open stairway on the north, which led from the street to the basement, has long since disappeared from view.

1880—

Sometime around 1880, a new elegant depot was built on the present site of the Wabash depot. To the east of it was a baggage room, and across the tracks southeast was a larger freight house.

1890—

By 1890, Bement business men were conducting a number of enterprises. Among these were seven grocery stores, three dry-goods stores, two hardware stores, five wagon, buggy and blacksmith shops. There were two plasterers, a furniture store, a drug store, a restaurant, a bakery, a barber shop, a grain company, a novelty store, a bank, the flour mill and a cigar factory. From this list you can see that Bement offered quite a variety of services to its citizens. In her history of Piatt County, Emma Piatt had this to say about Bement: "Bement is 'booming' just now, and persons desiring to locate in a thriving, energetic place cannot find a better one of its size in central Illinois."

Evidently there was a market for bicycles in Bement, since Mr. Harry Bower had the agency. A choice of five styles was offered: The American Rambler for \$125;

The American Light Rambler for \$135; The Crescent Safety for \$75; the Juno for \$60, and the Little Giant for \$35. The American Light Rambler and the Juno were suitable for the ladies, while the Little Giant would fit the needs of boys and girls.

Between 1880 and 1913, Bement was the victim of three fires in the business district. The east block of this district on Bodman street was comprised of four brick buildings in 1880: the Masonic Building on the east corner, the building on the west corner (now occupied by Kintner's Grocery), the building now occupied by Dr. Powers, and the Bodman Drug Store building. These four brick buildings were all separated

from each other with frame buildings in between.

In the first of these fires, three firms were burned out—a grocery store, a barber shop, and a bakery, located between the Masonic Building and the building now occupied by Dr. Powers. Since all of these were frame and since the only method of combating fires then was a bucket brigade, little could be done, except to watch it burn until it reached the next brick building. In all probability this fire occurred in 1885.

The second fire burned out those business establishments between the building now occupied by Dr. Powers and the Bodman building, consisting of two boot and shoe stores, a Chinese laundry, a butcher shop, and a notion's store. Before a third fire could destroy the remainder of the frame buildings in this block, they were moved across the street on West Bodman street, and brick buildings were built to replace them. With the construction of the other buildings which had been destroyed, the entire block was no brick, being completed in 1897.

The third fire occurred in the west block of the business district on Bodman street, starting at the corner it spread to the west as far as the Knapp Hardware Store. A fire wagon was in use by this time — a two wheeled hand car, necessitating two men to work the hand pump. The hose was put into a well and the water





Compliments of

W. A. DRAKE

BEMENT ILLINOIS

May the observance of Bement's Centennial so inspire all those whose privilege it is to help make possible, to doing even greater things for Bement's future.

**We'd enjoy having you come in
and get acquainted while enjoying
the Bement Centennial**

July 31st through August 6th

JUNIOR ADAMS
LEO FENDLEY
HAROLD WILLIS

HARRY ALLEN, JR.
SIMONE DRAKE
HUGH PHILLIPS

was pumped by hand to put out the fire. Naturally, not enough could be pumped fast enough, so more water was brought from the Wabash watertower. Fortunately, two engines were in Bement at the time, and these were used to bring the water from the tower, located at the edge of town, to the scene of the fire. Then a bucket brigade was formed in getting the water to the buildings. During reconstruction of these buildings, a second fire broke out and this time the inside of the new buildings were burned. Before 1899, three fires had also struck the schoolhouse in Bement. These are described in the school section of this book.



FROM THE BEMENT REGISTER, MAY 5, 1904

The street sprinkler, with R. H. Booker and the mules in charge, made its debut on the streets Monday evening, and was a welcome visitor for the merchants who have been "fighting dust" for some time.

The Bement Grain Company was organized in 1902. It was one of the first cooperatives to be established in the state. Despite early trials, when farmers as well as others regarded the movement with suspicion, the company survived and expanded.

The main street of Bement (Bodman street) was paved in 1912. By 1913, the main business section of Bement was confined to Bodman street. In addition to the four brick buildings mentioned before on the east block of Bodman street, by 1913, ten additional brick buildings had been constructed. Except for remodeling, these buildings are the same now as they were then.

One grocery store, that of Mr. T. B. Ewing, consistently adver-

tised, although there were also two others in Bement in 1913. Other businesses whose ads could be found in the paper practically every week were: the two banks, Swenson's furniture store, Hughes and Bodman (drygoods), Taylor and Siders (hardware), W. W. Body (drygoods), John McNamee (drygoods), Schuh & Son (implements), Dan Hall (insurance), W. W. Davis (drug store), George Clark (implements), and Lum Groff (produce). Those appearing less frequently were: L. U. Alvord (grocery), Geo. Tracey (painting), Knapp (hardware), Darl Evans (wallpaper), George McCabe (watch repair), A. Bradley (harness maker), Bower and Dickenson (men's clothes), K. B. Harlow (drygoods), Shaw & McGinness (implements), Herman Krause (tailor), Bement Manufacturing Co., Bement Grain Co., and the Bement Brick Co.



Camp and Tenney building, old school house in background, and ox team on the west of the building.



Established 1865

90 YEARS OF SERVICE

BEMENT LUMBER CO.

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

PHONE 4101

ROY B. JONES, Owner — EDWARD E. FRITZ

CONGRATULATIONS BEMENT

. . . May your 100th Birthday celebration be but the beginning of a feeling of unity and pride that will make this community a place that future generations will be proud of . . . a heritage they will cherish and preserve.

Charles C. Strohl

CHRYSLER - PLYMOUTH DEALER

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

PHONE 3311

GAY NINETIES IN BEMENT

The "Gay Nineties" in Bement were typified by a closeknit community spirit. The nation as a whole was relaxing after a near economic collapse, and our community—like the rest of the country, responded with a feeling of gaiety and fun making.

During this period, our village had board sidewalks along Bodman Street, and it was quite the fashionable and popular pastime for the fair maidens to stroll along the main street on Saturday afternoon—dressed in their best, complete with a parasol. It was said that a lady's age could be determined by the length of her skirt. The lengths ranged between a knee length skirt for the little girls, to the ground-sweeping length for the married ladies. Mr. Carl Thompson says he can seldom ever remember even seeing his mother's feet.

Fun was mostly the home-made kind. Cards and dancing were frowned upon by many. Still these forms of entertainment were beginning to be popular and many dances were held in the "Town Hall" over what is now the State Bank of Bement. Other buildings along Bodman Street also housed halls and large rooms used by various organizations for their social functions. Sunday School picnics were delightful occasions. A most popular spot for these picnics was along the Sangamon River. On one of these occasions, the group gathered in



BEMENT BAND — 1897

This picture was taken on August 26, 1897 in front of McDaniels Dry Goods store. Reading from left to right: Back row—George Thompson, John K. Barnes, Charles Mowyer, Darl Evans, Cyrus Bruce, Carl Thompson, Charley Pope, Thomas Priestly.

Front Row—Ralph Pettit, Ralph Martin, Harry Cornelius, Mr. Dawson from Decatur, Charley Dawson, Richard Fleming, Mayo Evans, Miller Evans. The two drummers are W. B. Stewart on the left and Ed Eckman on the right.

Bement—piled themselves into wagons all hitched together and drawn by a steam engine—and thus joyously embarked upon the tedious trip over country roads to the picnic spot. During the day they were drenched with rain, and since the roads were not what they are today, the picnickers had to be rescued in horse-drawn carriages, buggies and wagons. The original caravan of steam engine and wagons had to be left at the picnic spot until the roads dried off again.

Another young peoples' group who favored the great out-of-doors called themselves "The

Smith Family." During the summer months the whole group went on camping trips, pitching tents and staying a week at a time. The women remained in camp during the day, while the men who were in business returned to the village during the day. Then all returned to the camping ground for the evening meal and an evening of song and relaxation around the campfire. The group divided into committees—each committee being responsible for one evening meal during the week.

The highlight of the summer's fun was the Annual 4th of July Celebration which got off to a bang-up start with a Calithumpian Parade. (Dictionary Definition—a humorous formation, noting or pertaining to a loud, boisterous parade, with the blowing of tin horns and other discordant noises.) The parade would form between nine and ten in the morning and led by the Town Band; this gala group of decorated wagons and costumed residents wound its way through the town. Often times the various groups of merry-makers would pantomime incidents that had occurred during the preceding year—poking fun at various citizens, clowning around, and in general having a riotous time. Folks drove into Bement from all the surrounding community in farm wagons, buggies, and carriages. Many large families came on hay racks, bringing their dinners with them in baskets. In the afternoon



PIATT COUNTY CHAMPIONS—1894

Reading from left to right: Forney Thompson, pitcher; Lou Hill, catcher; Charles Houk, umpire; Shorty Grinnup, left-field; Otto Webb, substitute; Wm. Mann, center-field; Ed Body, 3rd base; George Thompson, right-field; Ross Rennick, 1st base; Fred Fales, short-stop; Oda Evans, manager; and Art Shook, 2nd base.



We're the Pioneer Grocery in Bement . . .

22 Years In the Same Location

In the Oldest Building in Bement

May We Join in Extending

BEST WISHES

on this

MOMENTOUS OCCASION

KINTNER'S

RAY KINTNER

KEN STEIDINGER

and Employees

HELPING TO MAKE HISTORY IN THE BEMENT COMMUNITY

SINCE 1920

**VOORHIES
CO-OPERATIVE GRAIN CO.**

ELEVATOR AT VOORHIES - 4 MILES SOUTH OF BEMENT, ILLINOIS

SALUTES BEMENT AND COMMUNITY ON THEIR

100th YEAR OF PROGRESS

ELBERT BRADLEY
President

OSCAR WINZENBURGER
Secretary-Treasurer

WILLARD MORRIS
Vice-President

CHARLES MARSHAL
Manager

everyone gathered at the village park to listen to speakers and take part in 3-legged races, egg races (where each participant had to pick up a fresh egg on a wooden shingle and carry it on that shingle to a certain point and back to the starting point), foot races, pie-eating contests, rope-pulling contests, etc. Some extremely dexterous lads tried their hand at catching greased pigs and climbing greased poles. At one of these celebrations, a bicycle race was held around the section which would now be designated as beginning at Coles pasture, riding south to the Postlewait farm, one mile east to the corner, north to the Frank Lux farm and back west to Coles pasture. Of course, this wonderful day of fun and festivity was brought to a fitting conclusion with a spectacular display of fireworks.

Groups of touring performers made their way into Bement during this period. Medicine Shows, in the old tradition, offered entertainment and patent medicines. Drama groups performed at the Town Hall. The business men sponsored "Lyceum Bureaus" or Lecture Courses which usually ran for a week and were held at the Town Hall or at the park. These courses featured musicals, drama, poetry and elocution. They were both entertaining and educational.

Our village grew and was modernized considerably during the Nineties. Many boarding houses and lodging places were available in Bement at this time. By way of mention, some of these were known as the Quick Hotel, The Murphy House, the McDowell House (later known as the Bement House), and the Renick House. Probably the two best remembered, however, are The White House and The Hotel Vendome.

The White House stands today as it was in 1898 and Mr. Harden, the present owner, is a nephew of Mrs. White and her sister who maintained it as a boarding house and lodging place. These sisters started serving meals and offering lodging in 1865. What is now the kitchen and dining room was then only the dining room. A tremendous room which accommodated two huge tables, and judging from a picture of one of these meals which Mr. Harden



ONE OF THE EARLY FOOTBALL TEAMS IN BEMENT

Front row from left to right: Charles Knapp, William Mann, Willard Toby, principal, Lewis Wise, Otto Webb, James Lamb, Dean Conway, Harvey Vance, Roy Webb.

Back row from left to right: Forrest Rose, Fred Tenney, Charles McIntosh, Supt., Luther Conway.

has in his possession, a grand array of delicious food was offered and undoubtedly enjoyed by their boarders. Many local young business men who had not established homes at the time, partook of this hospitality as well as those people who were passing through Bement.

The Hotel Vendome, later known as the Arlington Hotel, was constructed in 1896 and remained until it was torn down in 1937. At the time of its construction, the Wabash Railroad was seriously considering Bement as a suitable location for their shops and roundhouse. (They purchased 62½ acres of land at the west edge of Bement.) Thus a good hotel was deemed a fine idea and the Hotel Vendome was constructed by a Mr. W. D. Fairbanks from Farmer City. The hotel contained 40 sleeping rooms, parlors on the three floors; and kitchen, traveling salesmen's sample rooms, and office on the first floor. The opening, held in the spring of 1897, was a social function long to be remembered. Citizens of Bement and nearby towns and hotel men attended. Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Riggs were the managers at this time and had prepared a wonderful banquet for the guests at the modest sum of \$2.00 per couple. Among the eight young men who served as waiters receiving \$2.00 for the evening were: Arthur Shook, Carl R. Thompson, Will Mann, and Jack Foster. Following the banquet, the dining room and office were cleared and those who

enjoyed dancing were allowed the privilege. The hotel changed hands several times during the intervening years, but gradually became a bad investment as the Wabash Shops were built in Decatur, and with the advent of good roads and modern transportation, there became no necessity for maintaining a hotel here.

Jan. 12, 1893 - Adv. from Haldeman Milling Co. — "All kinds of grain, including corn in the ear or shelled, ground for feed for 10c per cwt., cheaper than your cow can chew it."

Feb. 2, 1893 — Joel Dunn's smoke house was robbed of two hams Sunday night. The vagabond who would steal the last two hams from a smoke house on Sunday night when pork is almost "out of sight" should be treated to a coat of tar and feathers."

April 5, 1893 — Taylor and Siders would like for the gentleman who "borrowed" the short end of their extension ladder to either return it, or call for the other half.

June 22, 1893 — L. H. Alvord sold 600 quarts of strawberries Tuesday.

Dec. 27, 1893 — Adv. Don't sleep on the floor that will make times harder than ever for you. From me you can get a whole bedroom set for \$11.00. This means nothing less than three pieces: Bedstead, Dresser, and Wash Stand, well made goods and nicely polished.

Andrew Swenson

BODMAN'S DRUG STORE

Established 1862

by

S. K. BODMAN

Compliments of

E. S. BODMAN

In business in

same location

since 1902

CONGRATULATIONS

Bement on Your 100th Birthday



from

BELL INSURANCE AGENCY

Phone 2281

Bement, Ill.

where

friendly, competent advice

is always available

concerning

ALL TYPES OF

INSURANCE

BE SURE TO INSURE

KEITH M. BELL

Supplying Bement's Building Needs

THE WILKINSON COMPANY

— BUILDING MATERIALS —

Ivesdale

BEMENT

Monticello

As a regular feature of the paper at that time, the editor published the time table for the Illinois Traction and the Wabash. This would seem to indicate that many Bement people used the trains quite extensively for transportation. The modern automobile was not yet in common use; however, Bement was not without its car dealers in those days since the Ford, Studebaker, and Rambler were offered for sale. In advertising the last of these, attention was called to the fact that even a woman could operate this car, since you merely had to "push a button under the foot to start the motor."

Another type of business found in Bement about this time was the Horse Barn, operated by Mr. John Breen at the present location of the Bowen Motor Co. It was to this sale barn that he brought horses which he purchased throughout central Illinois. When the market was right and the horses in condition, they would be shipped to Chicago or New York. However, he dealt with draft horses, and when the tractor began to replace them, Mr. Breen was forced to sell out.

Many changes in the business picture of Bement were seen in 1916. More grocery stores, garages, and auto repair establishments made their appearance. Several business men retired or sold out to younger aspirants. Fewer changes took place in 1918. However, one business man was forced to sell out — George Clark, who had a shoe and men's furnishings store, was drafted. At the same time, the war necessitated some curtailing of business. In accordance with the Fuel Administrator's order, the stores closed, to observe heatless Tuesday. Likewise the people were reminded that Monday was meatless day. The bakery offered "Victory Bread" for wheatless days.

By 1919, due to orders from the state fire marshal, several old buildings were to be torn down, in some cases resulting in the removal of landmarks which had stood for many years. The firm of Schuh & Son purchased one of these, owned by Hudson Martin, and planned to erect a new one-story building, 33 by 60, of bricks veneer, as soon as the old one could be torn down. In 1860 this building had been leas-



FIRST PRIZE IN CALUTHUMPIAN PARADE—July 4th, 1913
Daniel H. Siders, standing and Clell Baugh, driving

COMPLIMENTS OF

HOWARD HILL

**GOODYEAR and STANDARD
DEALER**

I FEEL THANKFUL TO THE PEOPLE OF
THIS COMMUNITY FOR THEIR
PATRONAGE FOR THE PAST
60 YEARS

Best Wishes for Bement's Future Years

W. A. HAMMOND
JEWELER

BEMENT

ILLINOIS

Since 1939

29 YEARS . . .

This is a record for any Oil Distributor
in Bement

HOME OIL COMPANY

Distributor S I N C L A I R Products

Congratulates
Bement on Its 100th Birthday

EDW. KANITZ

ROY E. ALLEN

ed for a wagon-making and blacksmith shop by Charles Hubble and Mr. Bills. A few years later a Mr. Jackson leased it and he later transferred his lease to Mr. Martin. In 1872 Mr. Martin purchased the building, enlarged it greatly, and engaged in the implement and wagon building business extensively. About 1889 he added a smaller building which he used for a buggy room. At times he employed seven men. It was said that there was more business done here than at any other place in town. (This building was located where Dr. Speltz is now located.)

Mr. Schuh, who was now purchasing this building, had been engaged in blacksmithing there for some 30 years. The other two buildings, which were to be torn down, were on the adjoining lot. Owned by Ralph Oyler, they had been constructed 38 years earlier by Simon Priestly and J. A. Force, the front being used for wagons, and the back one for a blacksmith shop. Mr. Force built and lived in the third house to be built in Bement.

In 1922 the State built a paved highway through Bement. This opened the way for better transportation via the automobile and we find an increased emphasis upon the sale and service of automobiles in Bement. Some of these were: Robertson's Garage, Bement Garage (dealer for the Essex, Hudson, Mormon, and Dort cars), Hill Brothers Garage, Bement Battery Station, Hubbell Garage, Gillespie and Grothe (repair), and E. L. Campbell (Ford

dealer). Four implement stores were ready to supply the farmer: S. M. Postlewait, Schuh & Son, A. J. Gulliford, and the Piatt County Supply Co.

At this point in our "Town History," we stop and pause and wonder just what should be said about the last 30 years in the history of Bement. A great authority on the teaching of history once said: "Everyone knows what history is until he begins to think about it. After that, nobody knows." That is the feeling we have at this point — we don't know what should be said about the last 30 years. Many of the events of our own times will surely be forgotten in the next hundred years. Historians of the future will pick out and record events of our time which seem



important to them, rather than those which now seem important to us. Historians have done this through the years. Events of the past take on different shape when they are viewed in the light of current happenings and affairs.

In looking back, we find that Bement business during the last thirty or forty years reflects the national situation in regard to broad outlines. Underlying this, change if not growth, has been the economic status of Bement's citizens. Established primarily as a farming community, her business interests of necessity have catered to this primary market. And as the farmer's picture changed, so has the business section of Bement.

That Bement business was inexorably associated with the

1855-BEMENT-1955

*Congratulations . . .
to My Home Town*

100 YEARS OF PROGRESS---
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

from

N
A
L
L
Y,
S

WATCH FOR OUR
ANNOUNCEMENT OF
OUR GRAND OPENING

FIN'N

SIRLOIN ROOM

1701 N. Woodford

Decatur, Ill.

Phone 3-4241

- ★ DINE IN AIR-CONDITIONED COMFORT
- ★ WE SERVE ONLY TOP QUALITY AGED STEAKS
- ★ FRESH-FROM-THE-SEA SEAFOODS

Serving Nightly from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"JIM and SALLY NALLY"

farmer is also suggested by the failure of the factory to become a permanent part of this picture — a failure not due to any lack in trying. Even though other circumstances contributed to their absence, still the very fact of this absence is probably related in some way to Bement's being a farming community.

Throughout the period under consideration, Bement business reflected the national picture with some few exceptions. Curtailment demanded by the war in 1917 was soon terminated by a period of prosperity during the 1920's. However, this prosperity in Bement continued until 1933, an exception to the national scene, where 1929 spelled disaster for many larger cities. During the depression here in Bement, our Forest Preserve Park, a dream of many for more than fifteen years, became a reality. This was done with the help of the W. P. A. in cooperation with the Piatt County Forest Preserve Park Board and a number of Bement business men. This project gave employment to people at a time when it was badly needed and Bement became the proud possessor of a beautiful park complete with a new pavilion. This property, part of which was the old Wabash reservoir, was covered with dense trees and brush. To this was added 10 acres on the west belonging to F. E. Shaw. Thursday, October 14, 1937 marked the formal dedication ceremony of the Bement Forest Preserve Park, the site now being used for the Bement Centennial Town Meetings.

Shortly after this, Bement business seemed well on the way to recovery and expansion which continued until the outbreak of World War II in 1941. Naturally, during the war, business activity was curtailed and few changes took place in Bement. Following the war, a natural increase in activity was once again witnessed. New business buildings were built, new homes and much remodeling has been done with more in progress at this time.

Bement had a set-back on December 13, 1953 when they lost three business buildings by fire. They were the Bement Theater, Dare's Tavern, and a building occupied by the Hadden Barber Shop and Flo Marie Wright's Beauty Shop. The fire burned

furiously and for a time the Bement firemen were joined by the fire departments of Monticello, Atwood, Hammond, and Cerro Gordo in an effort to extinguish the flames and prevent the fire from spreading across the alley. They did succeed in preventing the fire from crossing the alley, but the three buildings mentioned were a complete loss.

In closing this section we would like to mention a few of the business and professional men who have served this community for many years. The late Andrew Swenson, who was born in Sweden, adopted this community as his own and served it not only in a business way but also in other fields. In 1892, when he launched his business career in Bement, the business section could boast of few establishments. He saw new enterprises spring up and prosper, others start and die down, still others change hands. But he remained for over 50 years. Carl R. Thompson has been active in the business affairs of Bement for over 50 years, and we have two doctors who have been in Bement for over 50 years — Dr. W. G. McPherson and Dr. J. G. Bauer. The dean of all the present business men is Mr. W. A. Hammond who is still active on Main Street after 60 years in business. Dr. L. A. Pelton and Ed Bodman have both been active in the business life of Bement for over 40 years.

Bement has come a long way in the past century, and judging from the cooperation and enthusiasm shown by its citizens during this Centennial Celebration, we are very optimistic about its future. We may not be a big town but we certainly are making a good town in which to live.

Early Administration of Justice

About the time Bement was founded, there was a group of people in Piatt County and surrounding territory that organized a company for the purpose of administering justice in cases that the law could not well get hold of. Among themselves they were known as the "CALITHUMPIANS." They were in organization for eight or ten years and 'tis thought they did a good deal of good with tar and feathers; for while some were quite severely punished for misdeeds, others were afraid to do wrong.

THE BEMENT REST HAVEN HOME

The large house now occupied by the Rest Haven Home was built in 1869-70 by Albert Gregory of the firm of Fisher and Gregory, bankers in Bement. The Gregory's sold the house and 4 acres to Mr. Wm. Camp in 1874. It is remembered by most as the old Camp house.



In 1951 Mrs. Opril Baker, a trained practical nurse, secured this house and made plans for starting a Rest Haven in Bement. Open House was held on Sunday, October 21, 1951 and the home was opened for patients on the following Monday. The second floor was opened April 6, 1952. At the present time it is filled to capacity, 27 patients. The Rest Home employs 9 or 10 people to care for these patients.

January 7, 1904 — E. A. Body and Sam Bodman and others are harvesting a crop of ice this week. The ice is about 12 inches thick and of good quality.

Jan. 14, 1904—Carl Thompson and his delivery sleigh with the sweet tones of sleigh bells have been the envy of "all the girls" the past week.

May 5, 1904 — "Bement has had an anti-spit ordinance since Sept. 26, 1902, but you couldn't have told it from the appearance of the walks.—\$2.00 fine per spit.

May 12, 1904 — 212 Bement citizens took an excursion via the Wabash to the University of Illinois.

June 30, 1904 — There are more trains in and out of Bement on the Wabash than Decatur, and the Monticello time table resembles a flag station compared to ours. Sixty-six trains daily in and out of Bement that carry passengers.

CONGRATULATIONS BEMENT
on Your 100th ANNIVERSARY
from
COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1955



PIATT COUNTY OLD COURT HOUSE
Picture taken about 1896



PRESENT PIATT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Erected September 22, 1903

B. E. MORGAN
County Judge

CARL I. GLASGOW
States Attorney

CHARLES SCOTT JOHNSON
Circuit Clerk and Recorder

VERA H. PERRY
County Treasurer

DWIGHT M. MACKEY
Coroner

HARRY E. BICKEL
County Clerk

FRANK WRENCH
County Supt. of Schools

TROY C. BENNETT
County Sheriff

J. ROBERT BOWER
County Supt. of Highways

GROVER W. WATSON
Judge of the Circuit Court
Sixth Judicial Circuit



Joseph Bodman



F. E. Bryant



J. O. Sparks



George L. Spear



S. K. Bodman



Chester Schoolcraft



Frank A. Jones



John McNamee



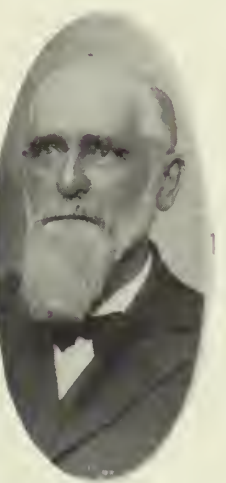
Wm. B. Fleming



Horace Haldeman



George M. Thompson



W. G. Cloyd



Charles Grant



William Hughes



Mrs. Ruth Patterson

THE BEMENT POST OFFICE

The Post Office at Bement, Illinois was established January 23, 1856, with Joseph Bodman as postmaster. His successor was F. E. Bryant, pioneer tradesman of Bement, who was appointed July 7, 1857. Mr. Bryant's successor was J. O. Sparks, grain dealer, who was

appointed October 18, 1858, and was succeeded by George L. Spear, who was appointed April 20, 1861, under the administration of President Lincoln. On October 6, 1865, Sereno K. Bodman, a druggist and nephew of the first postmaster (Joseph Bodman) was appointed to succeed Judge Spear and held the

office until his successor, Chester Schoolcraft, whose appointment was made October 12, 1866, took charge of the office. Mr. Schoolcraft was succeeded by Sereno K. Bodman, who was the first 'come-back' occupant of the office, being reappointed March 31, 1869, under the administration of President Grant. On July

Nearly a Century of Service!

1860 --- 1955
95 Friendly Years

Ninety-five years have elapsed since the original founding of the Millikin National Bank of Decatur in 1860. Bement was then five years old and Decatur was a young, progressive community of 3800.

During its long history, The Millikin National Bank has provided complete banking facilities and helpful credit to thousands of individuals and business firms in Decatur and Central Illinois.

Today we congratulate our good neighbor — Bement — on its 100th birthday.

May your Centennial celebration be a happy one!

The Millikin National Bank of Decatur

DECATUR'S OLDEST AND LARGEST BANK



Member Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation

Member Federal
Reserve System

Founded 1860
by James Millikin

1, 1884, the office was advanced to third class or presidential office, and on July 4, 1884, Frank A. Jones was appointed to the office. Mr. Bodman retired after a continuous service of more than 15 years. Mr. Jones was succeeded by John McNamee, who was appointed by President Grover Cleveland, March 22, 1887. Jones came back and succeeded Mr. McNamee under appointment by President Harrison, July 1, 1891. Frank A. Jones, the first presidential appointee, was a veteran of the Civil War, and was literally shot to pieces on the firing line. He was informed by a hospital surgeon at one time that he had but a few hours to live, but Jones said he absolutely refused to die. At the close of the war in 1865 he marched up the avenue in Washington, and fifty years afterwards marched with the veterans over the same route during the national encampment of the G. A. R. in Washington, D. C. in 1915.

William B. Fleming was the successor of Mr. Jones under appointment made by President Cleveland, Jan. 23, 1896. Fleming was succeeded by Horace Haldeman, prominent in business and political activities of the community, who was appointed June 29, 1900, and was succeeded by George M. Thompson, who was named January 11, 1905. He was succeeded by W. G. Cloyd who was appointed by President

Wilson, August 1, 1913. Charles Grant became acting postmaster in 1923 and later received his appointment as postmaster. He was succeeded by William Hughes, whose appointment was dated March 1, 1924. Following Mr. Hughes, Mr. J. N. Raglan was acting postmaster for one year before Mrs. Ruth Patterson, the present postmistress, received her appointment on August 20, 1934.

QUOTES FROM BEMENT GAZETTE—JULY 9, 1887

Quite a number of Bement's young folks enjoyed a moonlight picnic in the park last Wednesday evening.

The greatest sight we saw outside the calithumpian parade was a woman standing on her head swearing at the driver for letting the horse run away.

Ye editor has been confined to his room the past week. He is not dangerously sick, but if you should offer him a seat without a cushion, you would hear "piles" of cuss words.

Fizz, Bang, Boom, is the way the fourth was celebrated here in good old fashioned style. The boys commenced in the morning at 1 o'clock by ringing the bells and firing the anvils. The crowd commenced to come in very early and by eight o'clock the streets were pretty well filled, and at ten the calithumpian parade started out . . .

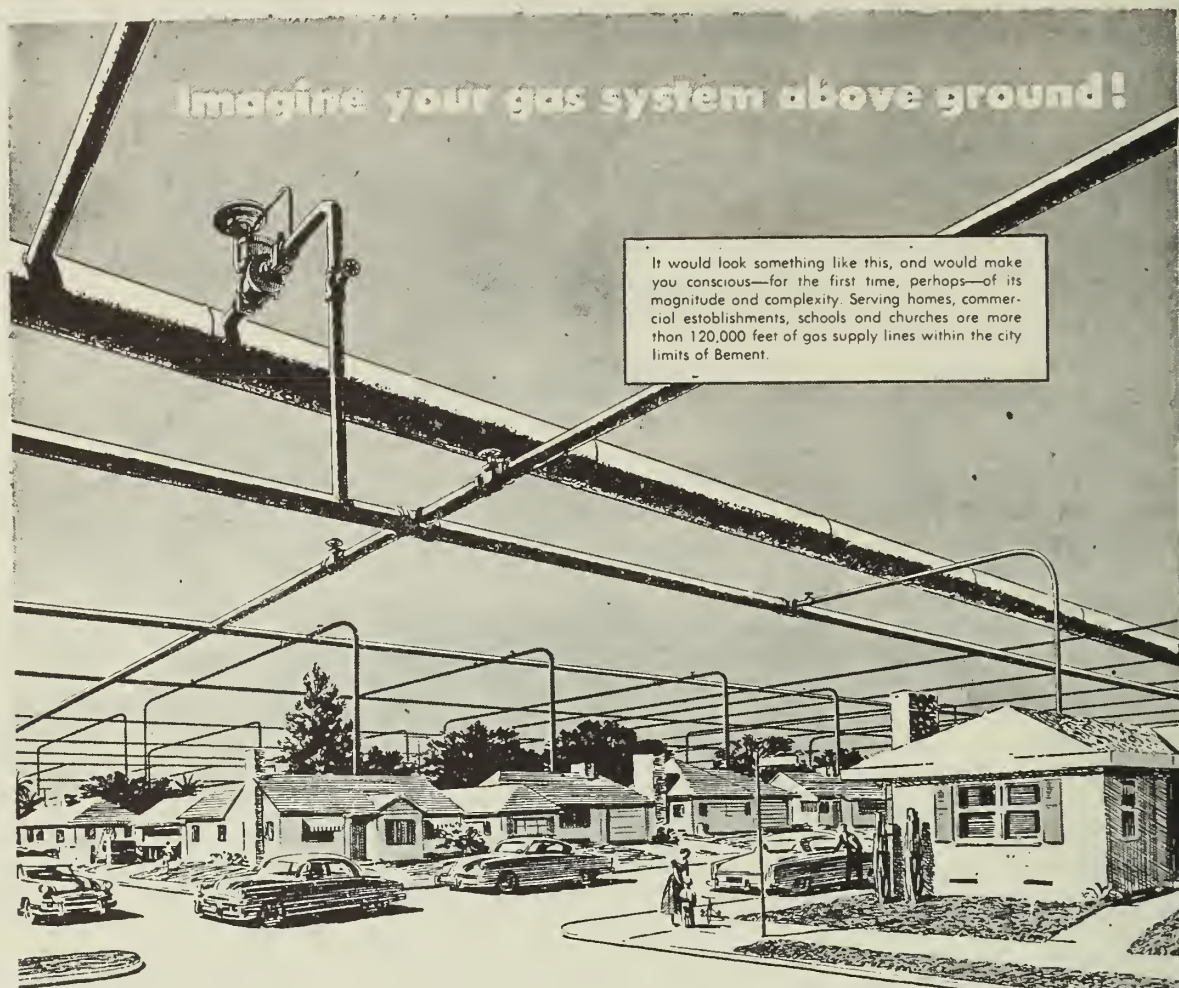
MAYORS OF BEMENT

Joseph Bodman	1861-1863
F. E. Bryant	1863-1865
W. L. Ryder	1865
Thos. T. Pettit	1866
D. C. W. Niles	1867-
Wm. M. Camp	1868
Joseph Bodman	1869-1871
Thos. Dunn	1871
W. A. Pierce	1872
H. A. Stark	1873
H. Martin	1874
Jas. S. Peairs	1875
E. Sweney	1876
T. T. Pettit	1877-1878
E. Sweney	1879
T. T. Pettit	1880
J. C. McCord	1882
Darius Vaughn	1883
W. S. Ruby	1884
G. B. Alvord	1885
C. H. Camp	1886
Joseph Hartman	1887
D. D. Kimmel	1888
Robert Fertig	1889-1891
C. F. Tenney	1891-1892
Robert Fertig	1893-1896
E. R. Sayler	1896-1898
J. T. Moore	1898
H. E. Shaw	1899-1903
J. F. Sprague	1907-1909
W. J. Day	1909-1912
J. F. Sprague	1912-1919
M. C. Camp	1919-1923
Daniel Hall	1923-1926
J. F. Sprague	1926-1929
J. W. B. Stewart	1929-1931
E. E. Logan	1931-1945
Edward Kanitz	1945-1949
Carl J. Edwards	1949-1953
Lynn Crook	1953-1957



1955—BEMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Seated from the left: Dan Siders (Village Treasurer), Bryan Wilson (Village Attorney), Lynn Crook (Mayor), and Carl Thompson (Village Clerk for 33 years). Standing from the left: Board Members—Ralph Mintun, Walter Miller, Harry Hixon, F. E. Lincicum, Ralph Siders Jr., and Keith Bell.



Imagine your gas system above ground!

It would look something like this, and would make you conscious—for the first time, perhaps—of its magnitude and complexity. Serving homes, commercial establishments, schools and churches are more than 120,000 feet of gas supply lines within the city limits of Bement.

CONGRATULATIONS
BEMENT
on your 100 YEARS of Achievements
CITIZENS GAS COMPANY

— Use GAS - The Ideal Fuel —

THE PRESS

Bement's first newspaper, The Bement Union, was established in April of 1860, by James Shoaff of Decatur and Mr. Outten of Monticello. Mr. Shoaff was the editor of the paper which was published in the warehouse of Freese and Co. He advocated the removal of the county seat to Bement. At the time, he created a great deal of interest and it became a topic of general discussion. Of course it did not succeed, but he did succeed in getting the county organized into Townships under the control of a Board of Supervisors. Mr. Shoaff made his editorial farewell in the paper of April 18, 1861, and enlisted in the army. Mr. Sanches became the editor and publisher, but within a few months the paper was discontinued. From then until 1878 a succession of editors made their appearance. All retired from the business in short order, with most of them leaving an unfavorable impression upon the community. This may be divined by the following excerpts from a 55 page history of Bement written by George L. Spear, father of Elmer E. Spear, of Bement, and published in 1878. (Mr. Spear was appointed postmaster in 1869, elected police magistrate in 1863, served as Justice of the Peace for 18 years and was also County Judge. His history, written in original style with humorous expressions, is delightful to read.)

"Some years after the suspension of the Bement Union, one John Smith appears above the horizon, a shining opaque, and began the publishing of a newspaper, using the old Union press. Johnny didn't stay long, but he staid long enough to teach the people here that publishers of newspapers are not all angels." "Immediately succeeding him was that traveling comet, John S. Harper, who also left a sooty mark upon the walls when he too, scooted with his booty." Speaking of John Harper, we now quote from an article found in the Monticello Independent newspaper at the time—"Editor J. S. Harper, the humorous, restless owner of numerous newspapers, late of the Homer Journal, Sidney Sentinel, Tolono Citizen, Fairmount Republican, Philo Herald, Sucker State Journal, and



PICTURE OF OLD BEMENT REGISTER OFFICE

Reading from left to right: Wesley Smith, Roy E. Cartwright (Editor,) Gertrude Duncan, May Booker.

The Bement Register, walked from Bement to Monticello last Friday, with the thermometer at 92 degrees, in fifty-five minutes. He may not be a success as an editor, but surely is as a hoover." He moved from Bement to Farmer City where he was the editor of the Farmer City Bugle." Quoting again from Mr. Spear: "After Harper left, next came Jacobs who for a while succeeded well, but suddenly came to the conclusion that all work and no croquet makes Jake a dull boy and finally succumbed to an overwhelming wave of ennui. Conners came in on the heels of Jacobs, staid awhile and came to the conclusion that the Lord had work for him in Jericho, so he went to pulpit labor."

On the first day of January 1878, Mr. Ben Biddlecome issued the first issue of "The Independent". This paper was begun under unfavorable circumstances, but for several years made its way quite well. The Independent was followed by The Bement Gazette, published by F. E. Bills. The Bement Gazette was next started by J. I. Chilson who later sold out to Eli Drum.

The Bement Reveille was started in 1889. The early newspapers were usually an eight page paper, however four of these pages were ready-print. Two pages of this, devoted to national and international news, seemed

to constitute the extent to which they lived up to their motto, "All the news, all the time." The remaining two pages of ready-print were devoted to a continued story, a fashion column, patent medicine advertisements, etc.

The present newspaper — The Bement Register, made its first appearance in 1890 with M. O. Curry & Co. as publishers and is now in its 65th year of continuous publication. When it started in 1890, the office was located upstairs over a building two doors south of the present location of Hill's Cafe. The office has been in its present location since 1896 or '97. Mr. Curry served as editor from the start in 1890 until 1905 when Roy E. Cartwright took over. The present editor, Verne Purcell, has edited the paper since 1943 and has owned it since 1946.

May 20, 1909—Dr. W. G. McPherson received his new Mitchell Roadster Tuesday. It is a handsome machine and runs easily and with practically no noise.

February 23, 1905—Watchman George Lee and His Flowers . . . George Lee and his wife came to Bement from Yorkshire, England in 1881. He took great pride in converting the dismal grounds in the vicinity of his shanty into a picture of loveliness with flowers.

Compliments of
THE BEMENT REGISTER

(ESTABLISHED 1890)

VERNE PURCELL
(Publisher Since 1943)

LEONE PURCELL	VERNE P. DUST
EDNA L. MOORE	LEONA C. HOLLOWAY
LUCILLE PURCELL	CHESTINE PEIFER
ALVIN DUST	



"Some weeks I don't know who is
running this paper."

CONGRATULATIONS BEMENT ON YOUR

100TH BIRTHDAY

D Y E
Radio and Electric Service

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

PHONE 2951

"Serving the Community for a quarter century . . ."

Inside . . . Outside . . . All Around the House . . .

VIRDEN LIGHTING FIXTURES

Puts Good Lighting Within Your Reach

THE DRAINAGE OF LAKE FORK—1882-87

A ridge running across the northwestern corner of Bement Township causes the land there to be a great deal higher than it is in the southern and eastern part of the township. In fact the lowness of the land in the southern and eastern part debarred settlement therein for a number of years until proper measures were taken to drain the land with tile and drainage ditches. The extreme northwestern portion of the township drains toward the Sangamon River, while all the rest of the township is drained by the Lake Fork branch of the Okaw River, which comes into the township in its north-eastern section, runs southward, leaving the township about the middle of its southern boundary line. The fall of the stream was very slight. After the rainy season the banks would overrun, and then for days and weeks the stream, through miles of its course, had the appearance of a lake or swamp; and because of its slowness in discharging its water, we suppose, the stream was called Lake Fork. The land was the rich black loam, but was not very valuable, because it would overflow, and a crop was by no means sure. Today with proper drainage, this land that was once useless is some of the most valuable in the United States for farming.

The early settlers soon came to realize that something must be



done about draining this land if it were to be farmed successfully. The question of forming a drainage district under the State Law was submitted to a vote of the people and the question carried. On the 7th day of October, 1882, an election was held in the Concord Schoolhouse for the purpose of electing the drainage commissioners. Alfred Jay, Samuel L. Busick, and Anthony Clark were elected as the first commissioners. They now had the arduous job of viewing the land and determining the benefits and amount of assessment for each property owner.



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Busick

The owners whose land was furthest from the proposed dredge ditch and who had some natural drainage objected to paying for the drainage of the land through which the ditch passed. Tempers flared and threats were made to the commissioners and their families. It became so serious that the commissioners had to carry guns to protect themselves and their families. Objections were filed and cases fought out in court. However, the commissioners were firm in their convictions that if they didn't see the job through, their children would have to. It was very evi-

dent to these far-sighted men that before this part of the world would ever amount to much, there must be drainage and roads.

On September 21, 1883, C. D. Moore, County Surveyor, was employed to survey the proposed drainage ditch and prepare a plat and profile. This was done that fall and submitted to the commissioners at a meeting held March 1, 1884. The original ditch was to extend from the line north of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 36, township 18 North, Range 6; east to the Crane Bridge, a distance of eleven miles. The plat was approved, and it was decided to advertise for bids to be opened March 31, 1884. No bids were submitted and nothing was done until September 20, 1884, when they again advertised for bids which were to be received and contract let October 16, 1884. The contract was not let until the next spring however. Active work was begun in the summer of 1885. The work continued all summer and fall and all the next year until in November, 1886, they reached the Moore Graveyard in Unity Township. On the second day of February, 1887, the dredge boat was burned. The ditch, however, had been completed as far as the original ditch extended. In all, over two hundred thousand cubic yards of dirt had been removed. As the ditch had been completed within the time allowed, the price paid for the work was 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per cubic yard, and the ditch had cost in the neighborhood of thirty thousand dollars.

As time passed a number of lateral ditches were put in and hundreds of miles of field tile were laid. The Village of Bement purchased perpetual rights to drain into one of these laterals.



Anthony Clark

WELCOME TO

WEST END TAVERN

Just East of Wabash Depot

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

FINE FOODS — MICHELOB ON TAP

RAY AND THERESE MATTINGLY



GASOLINE V.E.P. MOTOR OIL

J. ROY JORDAN

Phone 2501

Bement

THE OHIO OIL COMPANY

The rich black loam rid of its surplus of brackish water, became some of the richest and most productive land in the world. Yields of 90-100 bushels of corn to the acre are not uncommon. The great yield of grain caused the value of the land to increase many fold. In 1882, the year the dredging plans started, land sold for \$35. per acre. By 1900 the value had risen to \$150. During World War I, it increased to \$400., and at the present time it is selling for over \$500. per acre.

LINCOLN & DOUGLAS IN BEMENT

The Francis E. Bryant Cottage in Bement has been described as the second most important Lincoln Shrine in the United States. It holds this peculiar position in history because here two of Illinois' great men, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, discussed and agreed to their famous series of joint debates. These debates focused national attention on Abraham Lincoln and led to his election as President of the United States.

In 1858, Illinois witnessed one of its hottest political campaigns. Democratic Senator Douglas was running for re-election and was opposed by Lincoln. Douglas was only 5'4" tall and just about as broad. They called him "The Little Giant." Lincoln was 6'4" tall and weighed 200 lbs. — a tall gaunt figure of a man. His friends called him "Honest Abe" or "Old Abe" although he was only 49 at the time. Douglas said of him, "Of all the dammed Whig rascals about Springfield, Abe Lincoln is the ablest and most honest."

The issue was clearly defined. Lincoln, in accepting the Republican Senatorial Nomination on June 16, 1858, in Springfield, had declared: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the House to fall, but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

One of the Republican leaders said it was a "dammed fool utterance"; another held the doctrine too much "ahead of its time." Lincoln's law partner,

Billy Herdon, urged: "Lincoln, deliver that speech . . . and it will make you president."

On July 22, 1858, Lincoln wrote a letter to Douglas challenging him to a series of debates. Douglas was reluctant to accept. He told his friends: "I do not feel, between you and me, that I want to go into this debate. The whole country knows me and has me measured. Lincoln, as regards myself, is comparatively unknown, and if he gets the best of this debate,— and I want to say he is the ablest man the Republicans have got, — I shall lose everything and Lincoln will gain everything. Should I win, I shall gain but little. I do not want to go into debate with Abe."

Both Lincoln and Douglas had speaking engagements in Monticello, the Piatt County Seat, on July 29, 1858. Emma Piatt, in her history of Piatt County (1883) says a magnificent display was made by the throngs of people, consisting of delegations from Champaign and De Witt Counties, as well as Piatt, which met Lincoln as he came from Bement. Monticello had no railroad at that time and travelers to the county seat got off the Chicago, Great Western at Bement, and journeyed to Monticello by horseback or stage.

Douglas who was to speak in Monticello that afternoon, July 29, was staying at the home of his intimate friend, F. E. Bryant, in Bement. Bryant had become acquainted with Senator Douglas several years prior to moving to



Carleton Smith with Senator Alexander Wiley, as they visit at the Bryant Cottage in Bement. They are shown inspecting the chair that Abraham Lincoln sat in on the evening of July 29, 1858.

Bement when Bryant represented Schuyler County in the state legislature in 1852. The acquaintance ripened into a firm friendship. And so, in July 1858, when it was known that Douglas was to speak in Monticello, Mr. and Mrs. Bryant invited Sen. Douglas and his wife to be their guests. They came the day before and on July 29, with the host and hostess, drove to Monticello in a carriage for the speaking. Upon returning, when a mile out of Monticello, they met Abraham Lincoln riding in



**THE PIATT COUNTY BAR HONORS ITSELF IN THUS
HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE FORMERLY
PRACTICED LAW BEFORE THIS BAR**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
THOMAS MILLIGAN
HAMILTON C. McCOMAS
CHARLES WATTS
ALEXANDER G. BOYER
ALONZO T. PIPHER
ALBERT EMERSON
J. F. LINCOLN
FRANK PITTMAN
WILLIAM E. LODGE
DAVID McWILLIAMS
ERNEST A. BARRINGER
MARION R. DAVIDSON

WILLIAM G. CLOYD
HARVEY HUSTON
CHARLES HUGHES
CHARLES F. MANSFIELD
ALBERT C. EDIE
F. M. SHONKWILER
JAMES L. HICKS
PETER A. HAMILTON
SAMUEL R. REED
CARL S. REED
CHARLES W. FIRKE
THOMAS J. KASTEL
ELIM J. HAWBAKER



(Left to right: Delmar Durbin,
Clark Plummer, Robert Kimery)

CONGRATULATIONS NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS and CUSTOMERS

PLUMMER'S SINCLAIR SERVICE

CLARK PLUMMER

—

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

—

DELMAR DURBIN

a prairie schooner. The meeting was purely accidental. Tradition has it that the prairie schooner had broken a doubletree while crossing over a ditch and they were waiting for repairs. A concrete pyramid marks the spot of the meeting and the ditch can still be located nearby.

Sen. Douglas remarked that he wanted to speak to Lincoln, the carriage was stopped, and Lincoln came to its side and talked to Douglas. There on the highway, arrangements were made to meet in Bement that night, and at Mr. Bryant's invitation his home was selected as the meeting place. Mr. Lincoln went on to Monticello to speak, and late that evening returned to Bement. There, in a tiny parlor of the Bryant cottage, a two hour conference was held with Mr. Bryant as the third party. Plans for the debates were completed and Lincoln caught the midnight train from Bement to Springfield.

Debates were held at: Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton.

Mr. Bryant was confident that one of the two men would be the next president, and he marked the chairs in which each sat. When news of the assassination of Lincoln came, he pinned crepe and a small flag to the Lincoln chair.

It has been said that the agreement to debate made by Lincoln and Douglas in their two hour conference at the Bryant Cottage in Bement, probably changed the whole course of American History, for while Douglas won the race for the Senate, the ultimate result of the debates was the splitting of the Democratic Party and the election of Lincoln to the presidency two years later.

It is a long way from the humble Bryant Cottage to the White House, but it serves as the setting for one of the great scenes in Abraham Lincoln's "Prologue to Glory."

J. F. Sprague, grandson of F. E. Bryant, preserved the cottage as a Lincoln-Douglas Shrine, restoring the parlor to its original appearance and using the same furniture that was in the room when Lincoln and Douglas held their history-making conference. On July 29, 1925, Mr. Sprague, then Mayor of Bement, formally

dedicated and presented to the community the house in which his grandparents lived. In 1947, Mrs. Sprague, his widow, and son Bryant, conveyed the property to the State of Illinois as a permanent shrine.

BANK OF BEMENT

Milmine and Bodman were the first bankers of Bement. Freeze and Co. followed this firm and were succeeded by Fisher & Gregory; F. E. Bryant; then Byrant and Bodman, and then back to F. E. Bryant. Finally, Jan. 2 1888 the Farmers and Merchants Bank took charge of the banking business of Bement under the name of Bower Bros. and Camp. About ten years later this firm was succeeded by the First National Bank with W. M. Camp as president. About this same time the H. L. Timmons Co. Bank was started in the building now occupied by Dr. William Scott. H. L. Timmons Co. was succeeded by the State Bank of Bement in 1914, with H. E. Shaw as president. In 1929 the State Bank absorbed the First National Bank and moved to the present location in 1930.

The State Bank has grown progressively since that time, and the last two years they have attracted considerable interest by instituting a Farm Service Department (not usually offered in a community of this size) with a full time Farm Representative, Mr. L. A. Hodam. Mr. Hodam had been the Agriculture teacher at Bement High School for 24 years prior to joining the bank. Mr. Lew Wilkinson is the President of the State Bank; Mr. Geo. Wilkinson, Vice President; John Hardimon, Cashier; and James Raglan, Assistant Cashier.

BEMENT CEMETERY

The first cemetery site was at the northeast edge of town. However, because of the objections raised, this site was never used.

The beautiful grounds located one and one-half miles north of town were purchased by a committee consisting of A. G. Gregory, J. M. Camp, and Dr. J. H. Leal, appointed by authority of the town meeting of April 3, 1866. They purchased the land from T. B. Hale for the sum of \$700. During that year it was platted into burial lots, alleys and drives. In 1938 it became necessary to enlarge the cemetery and eight and three-fourths acres were purchased from A. T. and Nellie McPherson. Mr. Elmer Spear, Mr. Byron Dyarman, and Mr. Stanley Hammond were members of the Board of Trustees of the Cemetery at that time. Mr. Stanley Hammond's father (Mr. W. W. Hammond a nurseryman in Bement) had been a member of the board a number of years before. After much thought and care this new addition was beautifully landscaped.

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree . . ."

"A tree that looks to God all day . . ." Those must have been the thoughts of those men as they planted all the trees which today furnish a living monument to those who have gone on before us.

The Board of Trustees for the Cemetery at this time are:

Francis Ryan, Ralph Wright, and Elmer Spear. Mrs. Stanley Hammond is the Secretary and Treasurer.



Reading from left to right: E. Bruce Sprague, Ray Siders, H. E. Shaw, and Edward Sprague.

CONGRATULATIONS
BEMENT
ON YOUR 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

MEADOW GOLD PRODUCTS

Milk - Ice Cream - Butter

BEATRICE FOODS COMPANY
Champaign, Illinois

Williamson Warm Air Furnaces

OIL — GAS — COAL

HOME AND
COMMERCIAL

AIR CONDITIONING

Engineering Service — We Do It Right

KOHLER PLUMBING FIXTURES

U. S. BOILERS

WARREN - WEBSTER BASEBOARD HEATING

GASKILL PLUMBING & HEATING

PHONE — MONTICELLO 2167 — 24 HOUR SERVICE

UTILITIES

LIGHTS

Bement can boast of being the first town in Platt County to have a system of electric lighting. In 1890, A. S. Burr, prominent Bement landowner and civic leader, who already had the new-fangled system of lighting at his farm home south of town, organized the Bement Electric Light and Power Company to provide service for the community.

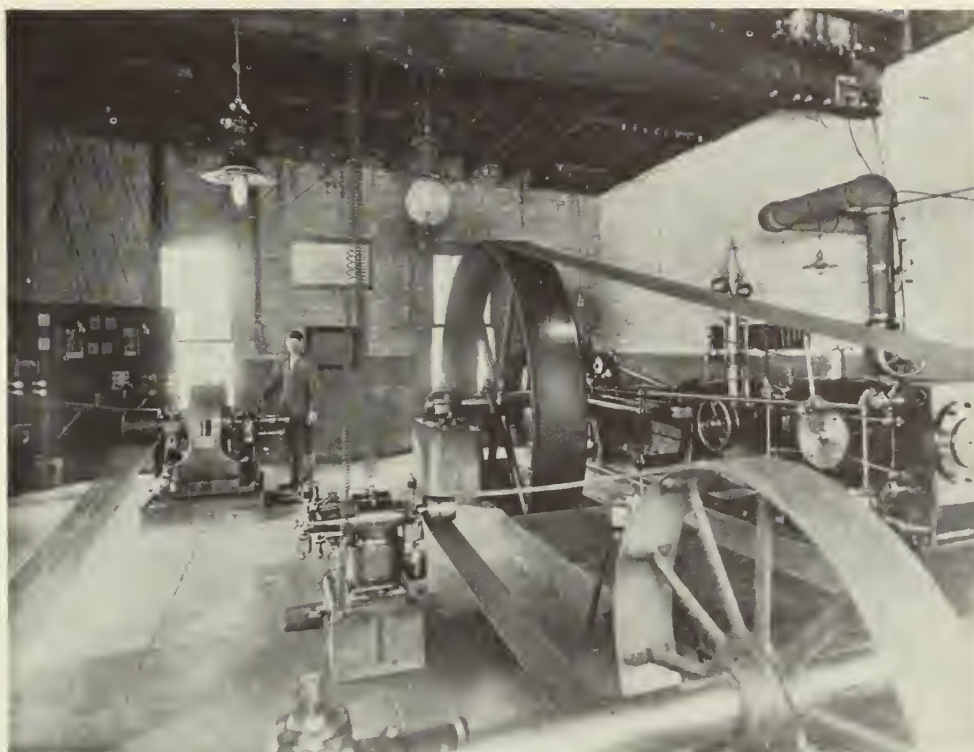
Articles of Corporation were issued on January 30, 1891 with the following men as stockholders: A. S. Burr, H. Haldeman, H. S. Bower, J. Benson, W. J. Day, W. T. Bower, and Wm. M. Camp. The Royal Electric Company placed the plant in operation March 24, 1891 with W. J. Day as the first manager.

This first plant with power enough to light 300 lights was installed at the Haldeman Mill where they could use the steam boilers during the evenings when they weren't being used by the mill. In the early days of the company the plant was operated only from dark until about 10:30 in the evening. It was many years before electric service was placed on the 24 hour schedule that we have today. (Shortly after World War I.)

In 1896 they built their own power house on West Wilson Avenue, just north of the hotel (The Bement House). This plant was large enough to supply electricity for 800 lights.

Electric street lights were installed in Bement in the early 1900's and operated on a "Moonlight Schedule," if the moon was supposed to shine, no street lights were turned on. Later, a clause was inserted in the street light ordinance providing that "sufficient current be furnished to operate such street lights during such hours on dark and cloudy nights as the moon may be obscured by clouds even though such hours are hours during which the lights are not due to burn according to the 'Standard Moonlight All Night Schedule.'"

When the Illinois Traction Company built their transmission line through town, power was purchased from them. The 6600 volt transmission line was built



Old Power Plant on West Wilson Street

to Ivesdale and in 1925 the company served approximately 487 customers. The Atwood Electric Light and Power Company also purchased power at Bement with a line built from Bement to Hammond and Garrett. From this line a total of 350 customers was served.

In 1925 the Bement and Atwood Companies were purchased by Central Public Service Company. This company later became a part of the Central Illinois Electric and Gas Co., an Illinois Corporation. It is a business-managed utility with its home office in Rockford.

The Bement District is an im-

portant part of the Lincoln Division of Central Illinois Electric and Gas Company serving a total of 1705 customers in this district as of this date. Approximately 250 of these are rural customers, the balance being residential, commercial and power. Towns served in the Bement District include Bement, Ivesdale, Hammond, Atwood, Pierson Station, Garrett, and the surrounding rural areas.

The present Bement District employees are R. N. Holloway, manager; Ray Robbins and Frank Yeates, electric servicemen; and Miss Helen Plummer, office clerk.



Yes... I'm An Old Pioneer Too!

Maybe I wasn't around when Bement was founded a century ago but believe me, since I got here in 1891, I have been in there pitching and have watched with pride as the village grew to a town and the town grew to the beautiful little city of today.



Now, at the start of your second century, my company, the CENTRAL ILLINOIS ELECTRIC AND GAS CO., has great faith in the continued expansion and growth of your progressive community. As evidence of this confidence, they have spent some one hundred thousand of dollars in recent months to provide additional capacity for your ever increasing needs.

Every day, new uses for my services are being found which, added to the multitude of things I now do to make your homes Happier, Healthier and Safer, make it necessary for me to grow as you grow. My company accepts this challenge and pledges itself not only to meet . . . but to keep ahead of this demand.

The past century has brought many changes — no one knows what the future holds but our policy will always be to Plan-Work and Build with your Community.

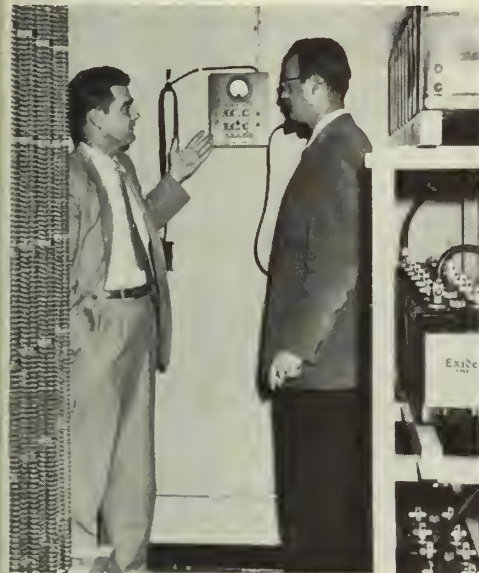
**We are proud to have a part in your
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

Reddy

Your EVER-READY Servant

WATER

The Village Board of Trustees passed an ordinance for the construction of a waterworks in Bement during the year of 1894. This called for a Bond Issue of \$7000. Later \$1000. of this Bond Issue was recalled, leaving \$6000. for the construction of the sys-



tem. The old brick water tower and pump house were built in 1895 and about 20 blocks of water mains were laid. This water plant was installed by the Fairbanks-Morse people. The capacity of the stand pipe was 60,000 gallons while the reservoir contained 40,000 gallons more.

James Fairbanks helped lay the bricks for the old water tower and pump house and some years later helped tear it down. He was also the contractor for most of Bement's concrete sidewalks as well as many other masonry buildings around town. Mr. Fairbanks, who was born in London, England, April 25th, 1871, came to America when he was 5 weeks old. His family moved to Bement in 1883, and he has lived here ever since.

Mr. C. M. Smith, an employee of the Fairbanks-Morse Company during the construction, married a Bement girl and remained in Bement as the first engineer for the Village Water Works. The original plant was run with steam power. Later they converted to electricity and during the years, two major additions were made to the water mains. The well now in use was dug in 1937. The Village Board has recently made arrangements for the purchase of the Wabash well which will provide Bement with a more dependable water supply.

TELEPHONE

During the early history of Bement there was only one telephone in town which was installed in Bodman's Drug Store. The phone was connected with Decatur.

The first telephone line through Piatt County was a toll line of the Central Union Telephone Co. with phones at Cerro Gordo, Milmine, Bement, Monticello, and White Heath. This toll line was finished about 1880. In 1899, the Piatt County Telephone Co. was organized by Wm. Lodge of Monticello. This company later had exchanges at Monticello, Bement, and Deland with connections to the Central Union and American Telephone and Telegraph Companies.

In 1928 the Bement Telephone Exchange was purchased by the Illinois Commercial Telephone



William Drennan, manager of the local exchange explains some of the new dial equipment to Keith Bell, Village Board member. Shown at the right are the batteries which furnish the power for the phones when the lights are off.

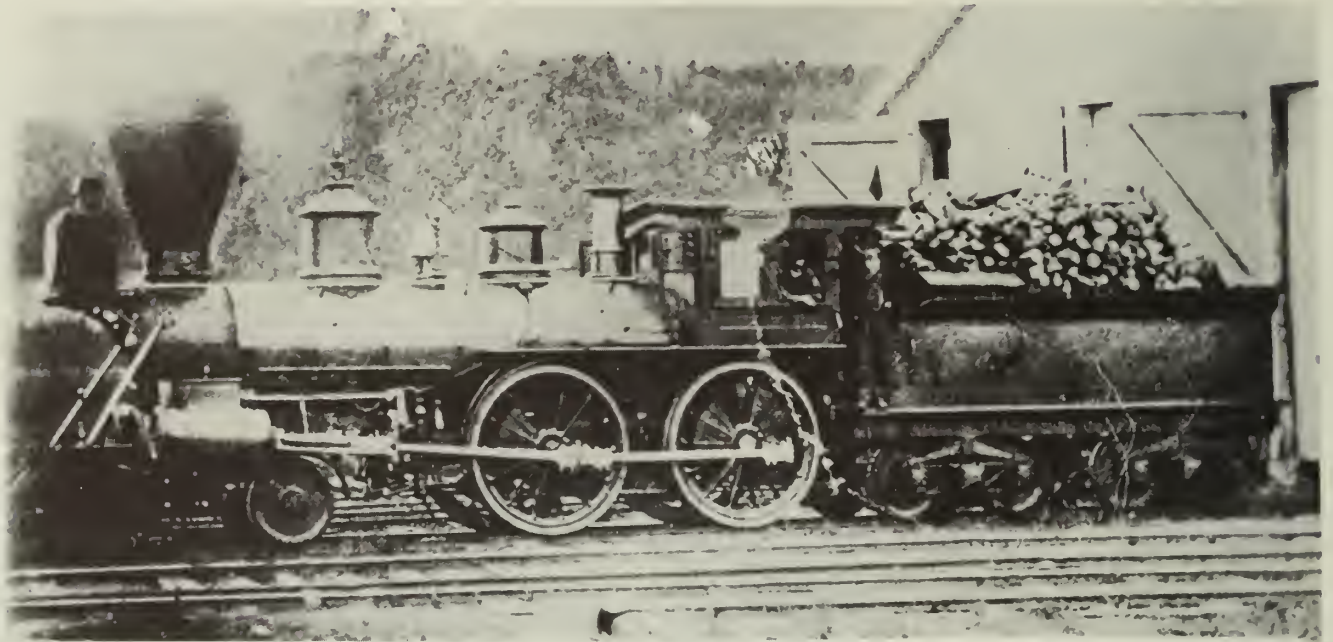


Acting Mayor of Bement, Ralph Mintun places the first call on the new dial phones placed in operation in Bement about 3 p.m. on the afternoon of June 14th, 1955. Standing behind him from left to right are Village Board members—Harry Hixon, Carl Thompson (Village Clerk), and Keith Bell. Next is R. N. Holloway, Vice Chairman of the Bement Centennial Corp. and William Drennan, exchange manager.



Bement phone operators during their last afternoon at the old switch-board. Reading from left to right: Mrs. Ruby Thornton, Mrs. Dorothy Meece, Mrs. Betty Gallagher, and Mrs. Elma Spearman (Chief operator since 1950.) Other operators not shown in the picture are: Mrs. Loretta McGee, Mrs. Margery Dial, and Mrs. Peggy Smith.

CONGRATULATIONS VILLAGE OF BEMENT ON YOUR CENTENNIAL



J. F. Nells, Supt.
J. J. Clodfelter
Roy B. Veech
Fred Alexander
C. B. Deering
R. J. Shonkwiler
Geo. O. Halterman
Keith Wildman
Warren Perkins
Sam Halterman
Edward Brown
R. E. Noblitt
Marion Pierce
William Dawson
Raymond Dick
Fred C. Klump
J. L. Hord
Charles Gallagher

Joe C. Defore
Bryant P. Sprague
J. G. Hannah
N. P. Kelly
Herbert Schuh
George Lash
Jos. R. Pierce
Harvey Shirley
L. D. Pitts
J. W. McLaughlin D. of E.
E. E. Schaal
R. C. Miles
T. H. Ritter
L. A. Eaton
C. W. Gardner
Donovan Wildman
E. G. Shepherd
Clyde Halterman

John Strohl
Carl W. McCullough
Linzy Corum
W. J. Bialeski
Simeon Royal
W. C. Welch
H. A. Malohn
Robert Gallagher
Leslie Durbin
Henry E. High
Harley Trent
J. B. Arnold
James Root
Roy Slagle
Robert C. Miller
P. M. Scott
Henry Bohn
Ralph Van Vleet

WABASH EMPLOYEES



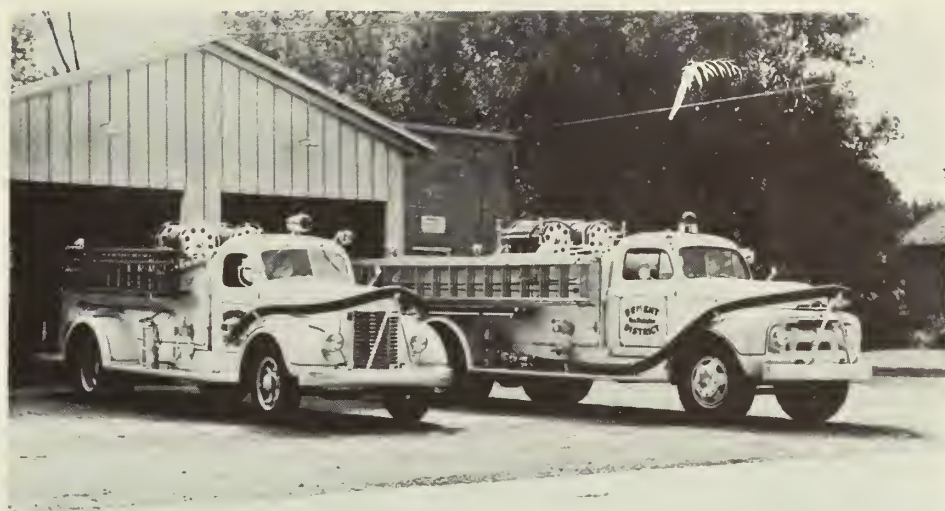
Co., now known as the General Telephone Co. of Illinois.

Conversion to the dial system was started last October (1954). Since then 625 dial telephones serving 570 subscribers have been installed and a new building erected on West William Street to house the automatic exchange. The first phone call on the new dial phones was made by Ralph Mintun, acting Mayor of Bement about 3 p.m. on June 14, 1955.

BEMENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Bement Fire Protection District is a public corporation organized and operating under the Laws of Illinois. The District was organized and created as a corporation by order of the County Judge of Piatt County on March 23, 1946, the first Fire Protection District organized in Piatt County. The District comprises approximately 82 sections of land with Bement almost in the center and Milmine in the western edge. Practically all the boundary lines run along the quarter section lines instead of along the section line roads to keep from having farm houses on one side of the road within the District and farm houses just across the road outside the District.

The District is governed by three Trustees who are appointed by the Judge of the County Court for terms of three years each, and the terms are staggered, one Trustee being appointed each year. Only one of the Trustees may be appointed from the Village of Bement. The Trustees are under bond, as is the Treasurer. The District has had only four Trustees. The first board consisted of John J. Glennon, Clarence Lefever and William J. Henebry. Henebry moved from the District and on September 7, 1948, his resignation was accepted and Roy E. Allen was appointed to fill the vacancy. Glennon, Lefever and Allen have been reappointed from time to time and are the present Trustees. H. E. Slusser has been the Treasurer since the organization of the District and Bryan Wilson has served as Counsel from the beginning. Anna Mary Wrench is now assistant secretary. Joe Rittenhouse has been Fire Chief since the organization. The present



FIRE TRUCKS OF BEMENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Assistant Fire Chief is Allen C. Mardis. Either the Chief or the Assistant Chief is on duty at all times. Other Assistant Chiefs were J. E. Crim, J. L. Ater and Demar L. Bentley.

Shortly after the organization of the District, the fire fighting equipment owned by the Village of Bement was sold to the District for \$1.00. A bond issue was voted and \$20,000.00 in bonds sold to State Bank of Bement. With the proceeds the District bought a building and remodeled it for a fire house and bought up to date modern fire fighting equipment. Additional equipment has been bought from time to time and at present the District has two modern pumpers which are kept at the fire house in Bement, and two auxiliary units which are kept at Milmine, at which place the District built two reservoirs. In June, 1955, the District bought from the Wabash Railroad Company the 100,000 gallon steel tank which the railroad had used to water locomotives before it changed to Diesels. With the tank belonging to the District, the supply of water to fight fire is now ample.

In addition to the Trustees, the Chief and Assistant Chief, the District is operated by voluntary firemen, the present list including—at Bement: Hamman Adams, Keith Bell, Lee Barnhart, Robert Brittenham, Lynn Crook, James E. Crim, Kenneth Fisher, Edward Fritz, Ernest McCullough, Ralph Mintun, Lester R. Proctor, Clark Plummer, Ray Robbins, Bill Slagle, Clifford Wilcox and Frank Yeates; and at Milmine: Clarence Lefever, Gaylord Hendrix, Scott Sutphen, Joseph Blickman, Har-

rison Depew, Milton Lammle, Ronald Taylor, William Horath, William Durbin, and Rev. Orley Gray.

The District is rated as Class A by the Illinois Inspection Bureau, which entitles it to receive the tax on fire insurance companies which are not organized under the Laws of the State of Illinois. This tax amounts to two (2%) per cent. of the gross receipts received from fire insurance upon property situated within the District. The rating also caused the lowering of rates on fire insurance.

WABASH RAILROAD

It was not long after the building of railroads through the country that all stage coach routes were done away with.

What is now the main division of the Wabash railroad was constructed through this county, across Bement and Cerro Gordo Townships in the years of 1855-56. At that time, it was known as the Great Western Railroad. Both ends of the road were being worked at one time and the connection was made near Cerro Gordo.

In the fall of 1854 the Sangamon River was bridged, and by November, 1855 the grading and bridging between Tolono and Danville was completed. However, the first train did not arrive at Danville, Illinois, until November, 1856.

The Chicago division of the Wabash was chartered as the Bloomington and Ohio River Road in 1867. It was afterwards consolidated with the Streator and Fairbury Company and

POUNDSTONE CONSTRUCTION CO.

EARL POUNDSTONE

BEMENT, ILL. R.F.D. 1 PHONE 2149

FARM BUILDING A SPECIALTY

Compliments of

RALPH DUNAWAY

PAINTING and DECORATING

PHONE 4811

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

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ATOMIC CLEANERS

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— PHONE 3441 —

P. J. AND MILDRED FERGUSON

Compliments of

THE FRANCIS FLORAL SHOP

265 N. ORCHARD ST.

PHONE 2981

MRS. F. E. LINCICUM

BEMENT GAS CO.

Phone 4881

BEMENT

ILLINOIS

for

Bulk Propane - Philgas Hook-ups

Heating - Air Conditioning

Refrigeration

Menno D. Plank, Mgr.

**CONGRATULATIONS BEMENT ON YOUR
CENTENNIAL . . .**

HAMPTON'S BARBER SHOP

In Bement Since 1937

"BUTCH" HAMPTON, Owner

COMPLIMENTS OF

Dr. & Mrs. Wm. M. Scott

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

COMPLIMENTS

OF

BRYAN WILSON

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

named the Chicago and Paducah. This railroad was completed and placed in operation in 1873. In 1880, it became a part of the Wabash system.

During its entire period of expansion east of the Mississippi River, the Wabash system served as the principal artery tapping the great "Heart of America". In 1879, the Wabash Railroad Company operating east of the Mississippi, and the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railroad operating west of the Mississippi, were merged into the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad Company. In 1889, both the lines east and west of the Mississippi were again reorganized, this time as the Wabash Railroad Company.



Old Coal Chute



A new "elegant" depot was built in Bement around 1880 on the site of the present depot. To the east of it was a baggage room, and across the tracks southeast was a larger freight house. Passenger trains and freight trains from North, South, East, and West all stopped in Bement. In 1905, according to a special edition of the Bement Register on Feb. 23 of that year:

"Bement was the division point for several train crews and a number of extra trains were made up here. The coal chutes were the largest on the entire Wabash system and there were 66 trains in and out of town every 24 hours that carried passengers and an average of about 60 freight trains within the same length of time."

On January 1, 1931, about 3 A. M., the depot was burned to the ground after being plowed into by the baggage car of train

No. 13 from Chicago to St. Louis which came disconnected from the rest of the train and left the rails about 700 feet north of the depot. The engineer of the train died from injuries two days later.

During the war years it was not possible to secure either materials or labor for making outstanding additions or improvements to their property. Post-war, however, the Wabash has invested more than one hundred million dollars in new facilities of all kinds in order to serve even more efficiently the shipping and traveling public. In addition to modernizing its freight yards, communication facilities, and signaling devices, the Wabash has also greatly improved its passenger train equipment. Now 100% dieselized for both passenger and freight service, and upholding its promise of even better service to the "Heart of America", the Wabash again stands on the threshold of a bright, successful future.



"Green's Train" entering Bement. The Junction Eating House is shown at the right. This lunch room stayed open all night and served lunch and warm meals at all hours.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME

BEMENT ILLINOIS

- Air Conditioned
- Ambulance Service
Day and Night

PHONE 4441



Best Wishes to Bement

On Its 100th Birthday

HILL'S CAFE

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Serving the Community for 30 Years

VAN HORN HYBRIDS

in the interest
of Better Farming

- SEED CORN
- FIELD SEEDS
- FERTILIZERS
- CHEMICALS
- HAHN SPRAYERS

Local Representative

KENNETH B. HINTON

MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS

PHONE WESDALE 43817

To all our many friends in the Bement community we send our Best Wishes for another 100 years as prosperous as the last.

PIATT COUNTY SERVICE CO.

MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS

Bement Salesmen

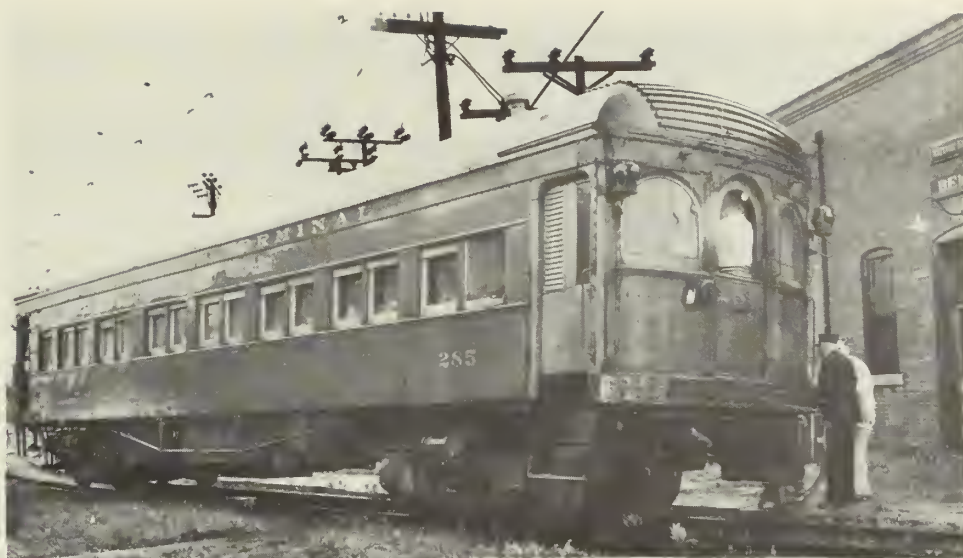
ARTHUR McCRARY - PHONE 3751

A. W. RUCH - MONTICELLO 2134

THE ILLINOIS TERMINAL RAILROAD

An electrical interurban railroad was built through Bement in 1907. The "ol' Traction" gave the community a direct passage to nearby cities and opened the way to a more complete pattern of living.

Enthusiasm for this type of travel swept the mid-west, particularly Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, in the horse and buggy days at the turn of the century. Lines sprouted in almost every part of these states. It was the belief of many that a town simply had to have electric railroad service if it were to con-



Last Train Through Bement, June 11, 1955.



through Bement. Several Bement Sisters of the Swish (some accompanied by their children or guests) took a short last ride on the interurban as it made its final run on Saturday—June 11, 1955. For some of the children it was really their first ride as well as their last on the interurban. The group, around thirty in number, got off at Cerro Gordo where despite the steady rain, they were met by a group of the Cerro Gordo Sisters of the Swish.

tinue to progress. Each town was determined to have interurban service and made every effort to obtain this service.

The beginning of the Illinois Terminal was made in 1903 with a line between Danville and Champaign. William B. McKinley was the organizer of the road. His inspiration for the service stemmed from a humble little electric line he operated to connect Champaign and Urbana. In 1907 the Illinois Terminal was built through Bement. The interurban provided frequent service, a convenient depot, and a cheap fare. The Bement Register of 1909 lists the Illinois Terminal Time Schedule and shows 15 trains West Bound and 15 trains East Bound — daily.

The interurban served Bement as a priceless institution until the days of the modern automobiles and highways. Once the family car became really practical, however, the electric car lost its magic. Students of business point out that there has

never been anything on the American scene to compare with the sudden decline of the electric interurban. In the years just prior to World War II, for instance, the interurban jolted through Bement many times with the motorman and conductor as its only passengers. The coming of the war, though, brought an abrupt change in Traction traffic. People who had not ridden a car for years found it an aid to their travel desires when gasoline allotments ran low. With hostilities continuing, the Traction almost became crowded. For the younger generation, it demonstrated the worth the line had once held for the community.

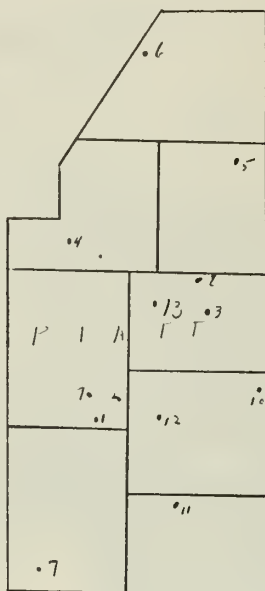
Following the close of the war, things gradually became normal again, and the traffic on the interurban decreased until it became unprofitable to run the trains any longer. Gradually the number of trains was cut until finally on June 11, 1955, the last train was removed on the route

Although Bement could boast of a number of business houses in 1913, few of the merchants used the local paper for extensive advertising. And this was certainly not due to any laxity on the part of the editor, Mr. J. T. Curtis. On the front page of his paper appear the words: "Published for cash, not for glory."

Many changes in the business picture of Bement were seen in 1916. More grocery stores, garages, and auto repair establishments made their appearance. In 1917, there was increased emphasis upon automobiles. Local merchants served as agents for the Reo, Buick, Ford, and Willys-Overland.

Advertisement in Bement Register, February 17, 1898—"There are three little things which do more work than any three other little things created — they are the ant, the bee, and DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the last being the famous little pills for stomach and liver trouble.—S. K. Bodman."

1. L. E. Hawver
2. Wayne Foran
3. Frank Lubbers
4. Bud Lubbers
5. Wm. A. Alexander
6. D. O. Holman
7. Thad Ruby
8. Bob Lieb
9. Stan Foley
10. W. E. Byron
11. Paul Hannon
12. Lloyd Wiggins
13. Albert Weakley



See these Dealers for . . .
 High Protein, Special Blend . . . Highest Yield-
 ing, Better Standing, Better Picking, Better
 Graded . . .

LOWE HYBRID CORN

CONGATULATIONS
 TO
 BEMENT
 FOR
 100 YEARS OF
 SUCCESS

COTTER IMPLEMENT CO.

HAMMOND, ILLINOIS

Compliments of
BEMENT BEAUTY SHOPS

- MELBA CURRY
- MARGUERITE ALLEN
- MARY HILLIS TOTTEN
- JACKIE'S BEAUTY SALON

CENTENNIAL CONGRATULATIONS
 OF . . .

Bement Unit School

**PARENT - TEACHER
 ASSOCIATION**

DISTRICT 10 OF ILLINOIS CONGRESS

Compliments of
DR. J. G. BAUER
 BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Compliments of
DR. & MRS. JOHN C. ELDER
 BEMENT, ILLINOIS

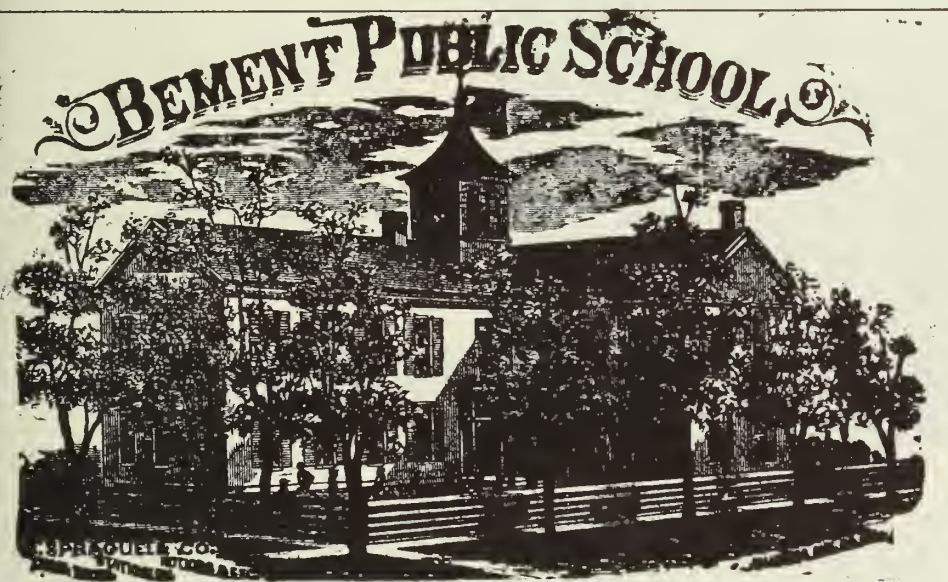
Bement was nothing but a grassy prairie when the first settlers arrived and there were no trees at all, which led Mr. George L. Spear to write the following: "The parent or teacher could not procure a switch for the correction of children and youth in the territory of the town. This accounts for the waywardness of the youth of these days. The rod had to be spared, and to 'spare the rod is to spoil the child,' if Solomon be any authority . . . Wonder if he was raised on the prairie?"

EDUCATION keeps our society moving toward progress. The old frontier of free land is gone, but education develops new frontiers of opportunity! It gives man the chance to improve his way of life and the way of life of others: Education is more than learning — like Democracy, it is a way of life. True, democracy is a political system, but it is also a way of life and the door to democracy is unlocked by Education. It means giving each one an equal chance. Every child, the rich and the poor, the negro and the foreign born, the child in the mountains and the child from the "wrong side of the tracks," — they all have equal opportunities for education under our system of free public education in this country. Thus, the schools teach democracy and help directly to create a democratic society. The schools have always played an important role in the history of any town or community and so we think it proper that they should be assigned an important place in "The Bement Story."



Charles Strohl, smiling, capable toastmaster used Bement's first school bell to call the 550 diners to attention at the Bement Centennial Kick-Off Dinner, April 11, 1955.

This bell is a handbell used by the first teacher, Henry C. Booth, in the winter term of 1856. It was also used by his sister, Catherine Booth, who taught the second term in Bement in the spring of 1857. In December of that year, she married Stephen B. Hawks. The bell is now the property of their niece, Miss Mary E. Hawks, who used this bell for ten years while teaching in the rural schools before she came to town to teach. This bell has a tag on it which reads: "The first school bell rang in Bement in 1856; Henry C. Booth, teacher."



Bement School — 1866

The first school election of officers in School District No. 2, (and that was the village district at that time) was held Nov. 10, 1856. Joseph Bodman, Aaron Yost, and Henry C. Booth were elected as the first directors. They employed Henry C. Booth to teach the first term of three months at the salary of \$40 per month. The second three-month term was taught by Mr. Booth's sister, Catherine T. Booth, who was married in December of that year to Stephen B. Hawks. Mrs. Hawks was long remembered in Bement and was affectionately spoken of as "Aunt Kate Hawks."

On Nov. 2, 1857, Aaron Yost, Crippen, and Booth were elected directors and they employed S.

K. Bodman to teach 5½ months; price omitted from the records.

On the following January 23, 1858, an election was called to fill the vacancies made by the resignation of Crippen and Booth, resulting in the election of John Parker and S. B. Hawks. However, on April 19, Parker and Hawks resigned as directors and Booth and W. H. Ellis were elected. On April 26, 1858, J. C. Richards was employed as teacher for 4 months; no price given in the records.

In October, 1858, the southeast ¼ of Section 12, the east ½ of Section 13, and the east ½ of Section 24 were annexed to the original district. Later that year J. F. Alvord, Joe

Sparks, and E. Bodman were elected as directors.

Rented buildings were used for school purposes up to this time. Looking to the building of a school house sufficient in capacity for the better accommodation of the increasing number of scholars, measures were adopted.

The size, shape, and plan of the structure were soon agreed upon, plans and specifications adopted, and bids for building the same were asked for and received. F. E. Bryant took the contract, and it was built by John M. Camp.

Previous to the completion of the new building, a room was rented in a private home and C. D. Moore was hired to teach the

Compliments of . . .

CEDAR KNOLL SUPPER CLUB

Fried Chicken and Steaks

on

ROUTE 36 and 121 on LAKE DECATUR

PHONE 4817

HANK AND FRED A POTRAFKA

MID-WEST ORDER BUYERS

4055 EAST LOGAN

DECATUR,

ILLINOIS

Your Best Hog Market

PHONE 8-5641

GENO PRODUCTS COMPANY

Agricultural Chemicals — Veterinary Drugs

PHONE 5366

205 E. LIVINGSTON

MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS

CONGRATULATIONS, BEMENT, ON YOUR 100TH BIRTHDAY

E. E. HUBBARD & SON

SEE US FOR COMPLETE PLUMBING, HEATING AND

AIR CONDITIONING INSTALLATION AND SERVICE

HOTPOINT APPLIANCES

PHONE 5771

MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS

winter term at \$40 per month.

The general outline of the building was as follows:

26 feet wide and 40 feet long, two stories high—11½ feet each, with brick foundation 2 feet high and 18 inches thick. The contract price of the school house was \$2000 and was to be finished by the first day of May, 1859.

Three sites were examined for the location of the new school house; the properties of Hunt and Carter, Wm. Rea, and John Rickets. Finally a vote was taken, for one of two sites, one on the north side of the railroad and one on the south side. The south side location won out—Lots 5 and 6, Block E in Rea's Addition to Bement. The block of ground upon which the building stood was donated by L. B. Wing and William Rea, and comprises the ground now occupied by the grade and high school buildings. The new school was completed on June 5, 1859, and the secretary was instructed to procure a bell and place it in the belfrey.

The bell was purchased in Toledo, Ohio, in 1859 by S. K. Bodman. This bell had been used previously upon a steamer, "The Lady of the Lake" which sailed upon Lake Erie. In 1858, "The Lady of the Lake" left the wharf at Toledo, laden with a gay and festive party of passengers and crew, with hearts buoyant and full of hope as she steamed away upon the bosom of the placid waters of Lake Erie: little did that



"Aunt Kate Hawks"



Bement School — 1892 —



BEMENT SCHOOL TEACHERS ABOUT 1896-97

Reading from left to right: Charles McIntosh, George Thompson, Willard Toby, Kathryn Fisher, Mattie Johnson, Lena Hammond, Winfred Hammond, Mary Thomas, Minerva Goodrich, and Grace Barnett.

once happy party think that they would be "struggling with the waves over which they were so proudly and buoyantly sailing; but alas, disastrous and certain doom overtook them, and that bell sounded the alarm and death knell of the passengers and crew that went down to a watery doom on that fated steamer, "The Lady of the Lake." That bell was placed in the belfrey of the Bement School, and for many years was used to call the students to class.

On June 16, 1859, the directors employed J. B. Lowell (the first teacher in the new school building) to teach at \$28 per month. He was instructed to employ an assistant at \$17 per month. At this time there was an average of about 50 scholars in attendance.

The board consisted of Wm. DeLaughter, Aaron Yost, and William Parker in October, 1859, when they employed A. S. Norris to teach for 6 months at \$65 per month and pay his own assistant. This teacher was not successful, and he was actually drummed out of town on the night of Feb. 22, 1860.

George L. Spear had just arrived in Bement the day before, and this is the story he tells in his history: "I was a witness to this rough usage. Norris kept his own restaurant at the school house, where he also slept. Upon the whole, we then thought Bement was a rough place. As we had not been here more than 24 hours till we were obliged to witness the desecration of Washington's birthday, it was not very encouraging to say the least. In fact, from that day to this

INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS

DEPENDABLE PROTECTION

AT

REASONABLE RATES

LYNN PETERSON AGENCY

MILMINE, ILLINOIS

PHONE — CERRO GORDO — 63 F 13

Join the swing to

HY-LINE HYBRID CHICKS

**Largest selling layers developed by
modern research**

Feeds - Remedies - Supplies

**ROTHWAY
CORN BELT HATCHERIES**

PHONE 6766

MONTICELLO, ILL.

**DOUGLASS
Hardware & Bldg. Sup.**

MONTICELLO

TEL. 6966

**Aluminum Awnings - Canvas Awnings
Sherwin Williams Paints - Dutch Boy Paints
Admiral Appliances - Toys
General Hardware - Kitchenware**

**Anhydrous Ammonia - Liquid & Dry
Fertilizers**

**MERRIMAN
TRUCK SERVICE**

Phone 7021

MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS

LIMESTONE - LIVESTOCK - PHOSPHATE

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

Bement Centennial

**GLENNONS'
TAVERN**

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

1 Block West of Route 105

Operating in Bement Since 1947



601 EAST GRANT ST. MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS



(1878), Bement has not been clear of an element which has sought to correct the errors of the place aside from the regular method. Late years, however, a resort to legal means has been in order, and we believe better order has been maintained. Mobocracy failed to rectify the morals of the place and we condemn it on all occasions and in all governments."

After Norris was removed, the school did not prosper so well for several years afterwards. It can be seen by the rapid change of teachers and board members that there was quite a bit of trouble in the school system in its early days. However, when the outside element that used to dictate to the teachers and board members lost their power, a better class of teachers were employed and they had the undivided aid and support of the directors. It was then that the school prospered and flourished.

The records show that there were 105 scholars over 5 years of age and under 21 years, enrolled in November, 1859. There were also 52 scholars under five years of age.

On April 16, 1860, John A. Helman was employed as teacher for 4 months at \$50 per month and was to pay his own assistant who was his wife. Helman was successful inasmuch as the school was under better discipline than formerly, and the scholars advanced and took pride in doing well.

George L. Spear was elected as a director in 1861, along with Thomas Mutherspaw and Aaron Yost. They employed J. Russell Johnson at \$60 per month for the spring term of 1861, who was to furnish his own assistant. This man taught but a few weeks. For good cause, well known to the older inhabitants, he was discharged even though he was an excellent scholar.

On Sept. 2, 1861, James Patrick was employed to teach 6 months at \$75 per month and furnish his own assistant. Mr. Patrick was a very energetic and thorough teacher and the school advanced under his instruction and leadership.

On May 10, 1863, the board employed Edmond Chenney at \$75 per month and was to pay his own assistant. On Sept. 21, 1863, the school had increased so much

that it was necessary to employ a third teacher, Miss Mary Taylor.

In 1864 the question of a nine month school term was considered but defeated. The question of a new school house was also defeated. In 1865 the question of a six month school term was considered and passed, and also a proposition to build an additional room.

During the first ten years of the school system in Bement, the interest kept growing and the number of scholars increased and a thirst for literary attainments so completely absorbed the attention of the citizens that additional school room became a growing necessity. And so it was in 1866 that the directors decided to build a house 66' x 26', 2 stories high at right angles to the original building on the south, and forming a "T" which gave 4 large rooms with halls in the center, above and below; with a suitable belfrey over the stairway and main hall into which was placed the old bell used in the original building. This building was commodious, substantial, and beautiful and it was the pride of the citizens of Bement.

On August 6, 1866, the board hired Mr. H. A. Coffeen at \$90 per month and his sister Miss Dama Coffeen at \$45 per month to teach for six months. Mr. Coffeen commenced his term by standardizing the grading system and he assigned the students to three departments. He took charge of the principal's department, and Miss Dama was assigned to the intermediate. A third teacher, Miss Martha Tippet, was employed for the primary department. It was soon necessary to employ a fourth teacher to take charge of a second primary department and Miss Adeline Hubbel was hired.

The school having thus been divided and graded under the supervision of Mr. Coffeen (who was armed with the necessary skill and ability) was then, for the first time since her history begun, possessed of superior advantages. The school prospered beyond the expectations of the most skeptic, and surprised and routed the weaker and faithless ones. Although it was expensive and increased taxation, the people generally were satisfied that they had received value for every

cent expended.

In his reorganization, Mr. Coffeen included a library — the schools first. In consideration for his fine work, he was rehired in 1867 with an increase in salary (\$1100). Evidently succeeding instruction was not considered on a par with that of Mr. Coffeen, for this was the high in teachers' salaries for the ensuing 20 years.

On November 3, 1875, the directors met for the purpose of purchasing an organ for use in the school, and decided to buy the Esty—style 8. The organ was procured and placed in the Principal's Department.

This brings us to the close of Mr. George L. Spear's account of the early activity of the school system, so we continue in a more general outline of the happenings from this time to the present.

As the students increased in number, new wings were added to the school house until in 1892, the two-story frame structure consisted of 12 rooms with basement. Steam heat was installed in 1884. The school was placed on the accredited list of the University of Illinois in 1879, and in 1881 the first high school senior class was graduated.

The following were members of that first graduating class: Anna Pettit, Eva Rosecrans, Geneva Dunn, Mary Newton, and Lucie Sprague. At this time the grade school consisted of nine years study instead of the eight we have today. However, the high school curriculum was arranged so that those desiring to omit the study of the languages could years. Those completing either Latin or German, or both, received a higher diploma than those who did not.

Before 1899, three fires had visited the school building in Bement. The first of them was just a shingle fire and was soon put out. On Sept. 4, 1898, the school building was struck by lightning during a storm and was damaged to the extent of \$1350, which was paid by the insurance companies. The fire was largely confined to the belfrey, but considerable damage was done when the bell fell. This bell, the one from the "Lady of the Lake Steamer", was destroyed when it fell.

Early on the morning of April



Compliments of

BEMENT REST HAVEN

A HOME — NOT AN INSTITUTION

MRS. OPAL K. BAKER, Owner & Prop.

Mrs. Anna Hilda Van Landingham,
Mrs. Phyllis Tipsword, Mrs. Ruth Slagle
Mrs. Phyllis Strohl, Mrs. Mildred Cozad
Mrs. Maude Phipps, Mrs. Nellie Corum
Mrs. Ruby Pierce, Mrs. Virginia Peterson

Compliments of
**DeKALB AGRICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

DEKALB, ILLINOIS

and

JOHN O. MOERY

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

PHONE 3166

Local Dealer for

DeKalb Corn and Chix

First Choice of American Farmers

JONES HARDWARE & APPLIANCE

Roy W. (Dutch) Jones, Prop.

Gas and Oil Furnaces — Bottle Gas — Plumbing

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

PHONE 4262

McFEETERS IMPLEMENT COMPANY

Junction Routes 10 and 54

CLINTON, ILLINOIS

SYMBOL
OF
SERVICE



PHONE: 10-780

McCORMICK TRACTORS AND MACHINES • INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS
REFRIGERATORS • FREEZERS

4, 1899, the entire building was destroyed by fire. The fire originated during the night from some unknown cause and before it was discovered, the building was past saving. All contents of the building except part of the library books and one of the two pianos, were destroyed by the fire. The loss included grade cards, school records, etc. and the loss of some money.

Arrangements were made at once for starting a new building. In the fall of 1899 and spring of 1900, a magnificent new building was erected at the cost of \$27,000. It was the handsomest school of any in the smaller towns in the state. The cornerstone of this building, which is now used by the grade school, was laid on August 27, 1899. Until the building was completed in Feb. 1900, school was held in the Town Hall, the churches, lodge rooms, and vacant store buildings.

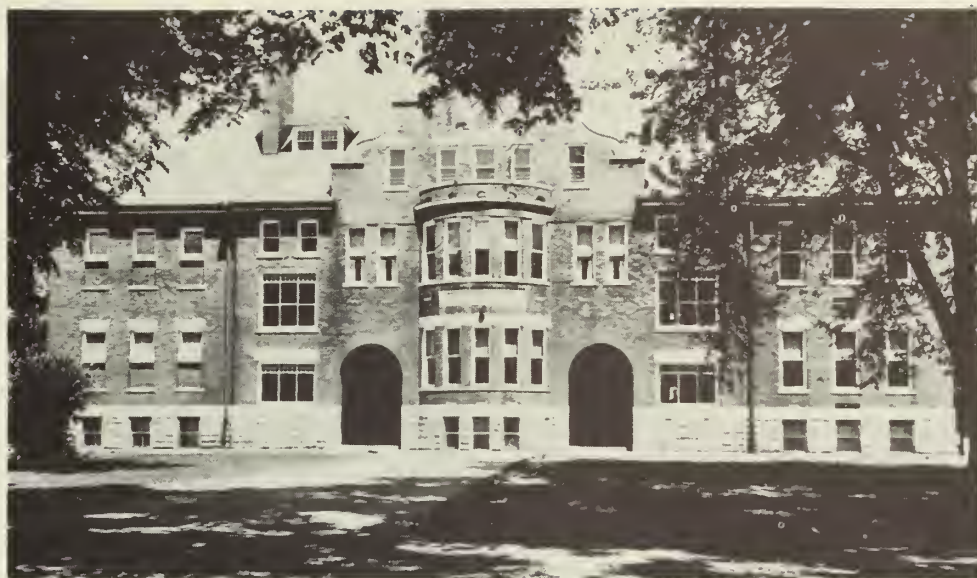
BEMENT'S PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM



South-East view of the Bement High School

The new school contained 11 rooms, besides offices, recitation rooms, etc. It was heated by steam, had drinking water on each floor and had a very efficient system of ventilation. The members of the board at that time were: Wm. J. Day (President), J. T. Moore (Secretary), W. T. Bower, L. H. Alvord, Geo. Dawson, Wm. Loveless, and Jos. Fahrnkopf.

The present high school building was begun in 1919 and was ready for use in the fall of 1920. During the years of its building Wm. J. Day was president of the board; W. A. Steel was secretary, and other members were: H. E. Shaw, John Moery, By Dyarman, and O. E. Wright. The 10 acre athletic field was also purchased in the spring of 1920. During a congested period which pre-



ceded the completion of the new school, portable buildings were erected and the eighth grade was moved to the brick building south of the Masonic Hall. Because this building was once a saloon, this was dubbed—"Budweiser College."

In the fall of 1927, a course in Agriculture was added to the curriculum in the high school, taught by Mr. Trevor L. Jones. That same fall (1927), Mr. Harry E. Slusser came to Bement from Vandalia, Illinois, where he had been superintendent for seven years. He served as the superintendent of the Bement High School for 19 years until 1946 when he resigned to enter private business here in Bement. In the fall of 1928, the school page appeared in the local newspaper—The Bement Register. This section was called the BETHI NEWS, and it has been a regular feature of the paper ever since.

The present Bement Community School District No. 5 was organized in 1948 as part of the plan to consolidate all the schools in this area. Previous to this time there were 17 country schools in



North-East view of High School, showing connection with new Gym.

addition to the schools in Milmine, Ivesdale, and Bement. In 1939 there were 30 teachers and 570 pupils in all of these grade schools. Today with grade schools in Bement, Milmine, and Ivesdale there are 21 teachers and 450 students. In 1939 there were 11 teachers in the high school with 185 students and today we have 12 teachers with an enrollment of 138 students. With the consolidation of the schools came the school buses, hot lunches for the children, and better all round facilities for education.

The present superintendent is Mr. Walter Slater who came to Bement to be the first superintendent of the newly organized school district in 1948. In the fall of 1951 and the spring of 1952, a beautiful new gymnasium and several modern classrooms were built after the people of this community had voted for a bond issue with increased taxation to provide our community with the school facilities which we so badly needed.

The Bement High School is visited and fully accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction. It is fully recognized by the North Central Association. The students from Bement High School are admitted to any college or university in the United States without examination, if they have satisfactory grades upon application.

And so we come to the close of our story about the schools in Bement. We feel that it was indeed fitting and proper that two of our Bement school teachers, Mr. Harry E. Slusser and Miss Isabelle Houston, were chosen to



Members of the Bement School Board at the present time, reading from left to right, standing: A. E. Bodman (President) Clarence Lefever, and Russell Rodgers. Seated, from left to right: Howard Lamb, Ralph Moery Jr., Charles Tabaka, and Albert Harshbarger.



Walter Slater

be honored this Centennial Year as the Man and Woman of the Year.

These two people stand as a symbol of all the teachers, who by their teaching, advice, and that rare quality of understanding people, have influenced and guided many lives in the right direction. Our thanks go to all those teachers for a job well done.

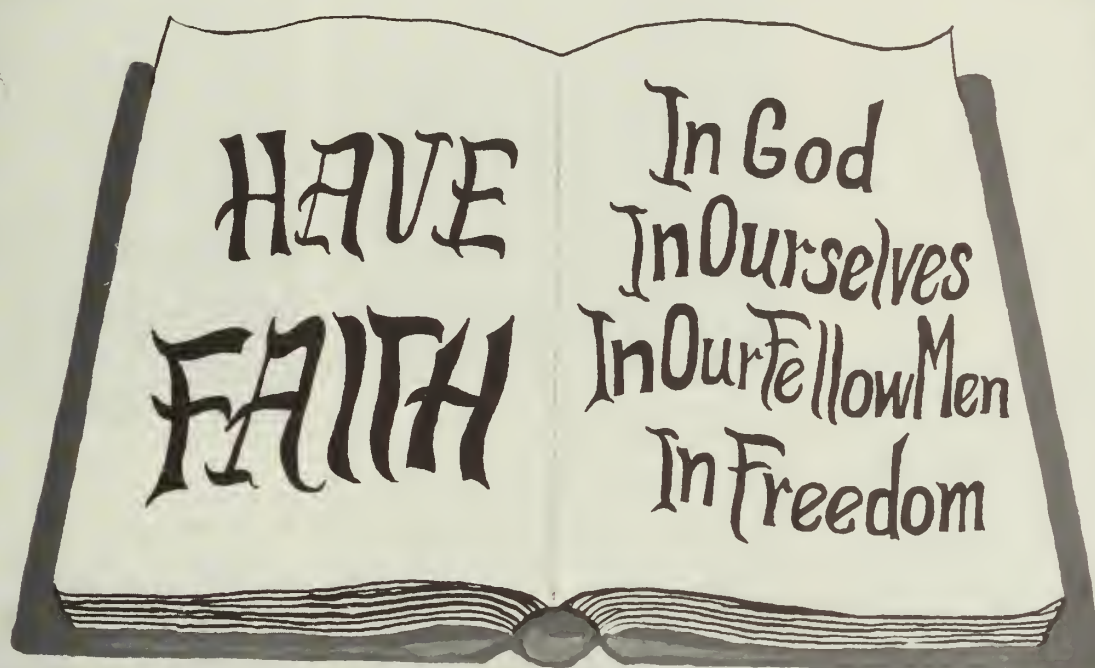


Miss Isabelle Houston and Harry E. Slusser, honored as Man and Woman of the Year.



Bement's School Buses Owned and operated by Lynn Crook

To Renew the Spirit that Built Our Community



P

THE BEMENT CHURCHES . . .

Great are the values which science has brought and will bring to humanity, but man cannot live by science alone for science does not provide him with the ethical guidance nor the spiritual insights which are needed to realize our ideals of the good life . . .

We need the church and the church needs us . . . ! The churches of our community played a very important part in the lives of the early settlers of Bement, and today the churches are increasingly essential. The churches offer us a refuge from the busy hurried way of living. To thank God for our many daily blessings could best be done by slowing down our pace of life and giving to Him a portion of our most valuable possession—Time.

Several children were standing inside a church once admiring the stained-glass window depicting Christ at prayer as the sun shone through the window. "It's beautiful here," one boy said, with a greater wisdom than he realized, "but it ain't no good if you are outside."

And so it is—! "It ain't no good if you are on the outside!" — Let's all Go To Church!!!

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church is the oldest church in Bement, being organized in 1858 under the pastorate of Rev. Edward Rutledge. The first church was known as the M. E. Society. Before the Society had a church structure it held its meetings in the school house and at Bryant's Hall (the room over the present IGA store). The services were attended by the majority of the community until 1862 when the Christian Church was organized.

The first trustees (elected for life or until removed) were: J. M. Taylor, William Parker, William Stillwell, C. Schoolcraft, James McDowell, Elias Baldwin, Thomas Postlewait, Samuel Sparks, and C. D. Moore.

The first church building was

erected in 1864, and was dedicated by Rev. H. Buck, with Rev. J. C. Lewis as the first pastor. This building was located in the block east of the Swenson residence, and the house where the Richard Dancy's recently lived was used as the first parsonage. The membership in 1870, according to the report of Rev. J. Montgomery, pastor, was 105 full members and 27 probationers. The congregation bought and installed a double banked organ at the cost of \$475.

In 1871, all but one of the original trustees had died, so a new board was elected for a term of five years each: George W. Moxfield, John M. Ercanbrack, S. G. Vrooman, Robert H. McDowell, Albert L. Starr, J. V. McDowell, George E. Spear, James S. Peairs. This new board considered a new



location for the church, but due to bank failure and business reverses, the plans had to be postponed. The board of trustees sponsored an excursion to St. Louis over the C. P. I. St. Louis Railroad as a means of making money towards a parsonage fund. The tickets for the excursion cost \$3.75 for a round trip. The amount of money raised by this excursion must have been encouraging, as the treasurer, Mr. Dustin, paid the railroad company \$450.00 for six coaches and one baggage car.

In 1890-91, while Rev. J. T. Pender was pastor, plans were made for a new church building. In March of 1892, the lots where the present church stands were purchased and a new frame building was built with a large auditorium with north and south wings. The church was dedicated in 1893 under the leadership of Rev. M. S. McCoy.

This continued to be the church home until 1916 when it was found to be inadequate to meet the needs and the erection of the present colonial style church was begun. The building committee of the present church consisted of the following people: Byron Dyarman, Thos. Priestly, A. M. Totten, W. G. McPherson, R. R. Siders, T. W. Lamb, and Charles Adkins. It may be noted that A. M. Totten was connected with the erection of the last two churches.



On Sunday, May 20, 1917, under the pastorate of Rev. Wilbert Dowson, Bishop William A. Quayle held the dedication services and preached the morning sermon and Dr. J. O. Randall preached in the evening. The dedication services lasted all week except for Wednesday night, which was Commencement. The Inaugural Organ Recital was held on Friday night, May 25, by Wm. M. Jenkins of St. Louis. While this church was being erected, the Methodists worshipped with the Presbyterians. The cost of the new church and pipe organ was around \$35,000.

A highlight of the church history was the 75th Anniversary Homecoming in 1933 which was attended by a thousand or more throughout the day including many former ministers and their families. The closing service was attended by over 500 who came to see the pageant — "Heaven Bound" which was presented by 50 Negroes from the A. M. E. Church of Decatur.

When the present church was built, a bell was not installed, but in December 1953, the Church became the recipient of a set of 25 Carillonic Bells. The bells were presented by Mr. George W. Larson, who has done so many splendid things for the church and community.

The present pastor is Rev. D. Ross Fleming who is now in his fourth year in Bement. The church and pastor enjoys a fine fellowship with the other churches in the community and they pray for continued growth in Christian fellowship for the years ahead as we pause to celebrate these first 100 years of this community.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The second oldest church in Bement is the Christian Church which was organized in 1862 at a meeting in the home of Wm. Monroe. Wm. Monroe and Martin Ruble were elected as the first elders, and Samuel Hopkins and Thomas Dunn were elected as first deacons. Other charter members were: Jane Monroe, B. G. Hopkins, Mary B. Hopkins, John J. Gosney, Elizabeth Evans, Ann E. Gosney, Susana Gosney, Caroline Yost and Elizabeth Hughs.

At this meeting the group resolved to take the Bible and the



Bible alone as their rule of faith and practice and this constitutes the church of Christ. James Conner Jr. who had charge of the organization meeting was the first minister and served for two years.

Services were held in private homes and later in Bryant's Hall. In the winter of 1864 the church held a revival meeting. Many persons made their confessions of faith and were taken in sleds to the Sangamon River north of Monticello to be baptised. One of those immersed was Mrs. Maggie White who died Dec. 22, 1948, at the age of 98. She related that the ice had to be cut, and the water was so cold that the clothes of those baptized froze stiff on them, and they rode many miles before they could change to dry clothes.

Elder G. W. Thompson, father of Carl R. Thompson, was the

minister in 1878, and served for one year. The present minister is Rev. David R. Scates.

In 1876 a church was erected on the corner of West Bodman Street (just north of the present home of Dr. J. G. Bauer and family) at a cost of \$800. It was surrounded by a board fence to keep stray cows and horses from roaming through the yard.

In 1885 an addition was built on the south. Sunday School was held in the afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock and was attended by children from the other churches where Sunday School hours were from 12 to 1 p. m.

In the spring of 1896 the church lot was sold and the building was moved to the present site. The building was enlarged, the baptistry changed, new pews purchased, a furnace and electric lights were installed. On March 29, 1941, the building burned to the ground at a loss of \$10,000. The following year the present brick church was built at a cost of \$12,000.

On the night of Jan. 9, 1953, fire again destroyed much of the interior of the church. Every room was damaged by smoke and the Hammond Organ was damaged beyond repair. The organ was a gift to the church in 1948 from Jack Thompson of Miami, Florida, in memory of his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Thompson and Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Graves, long time members and workers in the church.

This disaster was a staggering blow for the congregation, but after much labor and redecorating, (most of it done by the men and women of the church) the building was rededicated and a new organ was installed.



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Catholic Church, Bement, Ill. 1946.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Catholic Church was erected in Bement in 1867 on a lot donated by Mansfield & Freeze for that purpose. It was located on West Moultrie Street where Joe Rittenhouse now lives. It was a landmark for many years. It was later used by a group from Cerro Gordo who used the building as a place of worship and it was then known as the Dunkard Church.

Although the Ivesdale Parish is an outgrowth of Bement, it increased rapidly and became a parish with a resident pastor, while Bement remained an out-mission.

In 1888, under the pastorate of Father Byrne, the Bement congregation began the building of a larger, better church nearer the center of the town. It was located on the site now occupied by the present church and was dedicated in 1889 by the Rev.

James Ryan, then newly consecrated Bishop of Alton.

In 1891, Bement was made an independent parish. Rev. F. G. Lentz, the first resident pastor, planned and built the present rectory.

Plans for a new building began taking form in 1912 under the pastorate of Rev. L. Selva, and on December 18, 1913, the present Romanesque type brick church was dedicated. The building was erected at a cost of \$18,000. During the building of the new church, the congregation worshipped in the old church which had been moved across the street to the south. Later it was sold to James Landis who used the material to construct the home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edwards.

Rev. V. J. Liss is the present pastor of both St. Michael's Church in Bement and St. Philomena's Church in Monticello.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Bement was organized on August 29, 1868, at a meeting in the Methodist Church. Moderator of the meeting was Rev. T. P. Emerson of the Bloomington Presbytery who had met with a small group of men and women in September of 1867 to ascertain if the way be clear for the organization of an Old School Presbyterian Church in Bement. At the organization meeting, Eldad C. Camp and William Newton were elected ruling elders. Other charter members were: Elizabeth J. Camp, Mrs. Mary Camp, Margaret Newton, Mrs. Sarah E. Bryant, Mrs. Emily T. Swaney and Mrs. Charlotte Scott.



At a congregational meeting January 30, 1870, a Board of Trustees was elected and empowered to raise funds for, and proceed with the erection of a house of worship. They were: Joseph Bodman, F. E. Bryant, W. A. Pierce, A. J. Gregory, William M. Camp, and Joseph M. Scott. The site of the present church was selected and the building of the church was begun with J. M. Camp as contractor and builder. The basement, finished some time that year, was used for all services until 1874, when the main floor audience room was completed, the seats cushioned, organ purchased, and a church of classic beauty was dedicated free of debt.

On Sunday, April 18, 1880, in a severe windstorm, seventy-five feet of the steeple and the bell





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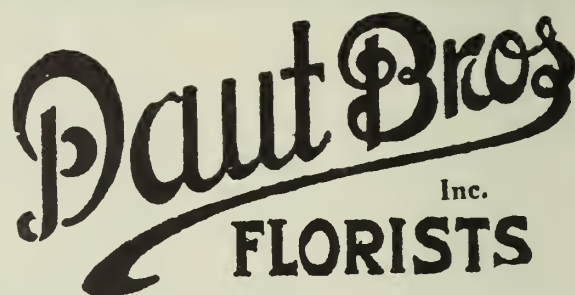
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were blown across the street during services. Before noon the next day, \$200 had been subscribed for rebuilding the steeple. The new one, although much lower than the old, could still be seen for many miles. The bell was undamaged and is even now used for all services. This bell was also known as the Fire Bell since it was used as the Bement fire alarm for some years.

On April 14, 1919, the following committee was appointed to look to the building of a new modern church: Mrs. William Camp, Mrs. J. F. Sprague, Andrew Swenson, J. L. Bodman, A. L. Wilkinson, Fred Davies. The last service in the old church was held on August 8, 1920. The cornerstone of the present brick structure, on the same site, was laid October 24, 1920; and the new building was dedicated May 4, 1922. The organ was a gift of the J. F. Spragues. During the building period, the Presbyterians worshipped with the Methodists in their church, the ministers preaching on alternate Sundays. A large cardboard replica of the old frame church, made by the late Miss Nellie Alvord in 1922, is kept in a glass case at the church.

The first manse, the house now occupied by the H. E. Murphys at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Morgan and West Wing Streets, was built in the winter of 1881-82 at a cost of \$1700, and was first lived in by Dr. Ringland and his family. It was later sold and the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fish was pur-

chased for temporary use. In April 1914, plans were made for the present manse, which was completed in good time and first lived in by the Shirleys.

The church has always been missionary-minded. Norman L. Camp became an evangelist and

was associated with the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago; W. L. Clarke, J. D. Murphy, and Lucian Scott became duly ordained ministers. Miss Mary E. Bodman (Mrs. W. A. Hammond), spent several years as a missionary in Guatemala, and Miss Edna Burgess went as a missionary to Persia. Rev. Wm. B. Allison resigned as pastor to go to Guatemala as a missionary.

One cannot speak with justice of this church without paying tribute to the remarkable contributions of Miss Nellie Alvord and her violin, who so faithfully directed a Sunday School Orchestra for many years.

The church celebrated its 75th Anniversary on August 29, 1943, with appropriate services. The church is now in its 87th year with Rev. Clyde E. West as the present pastor. He was installed January 30, 1955, with Mrs. West's father, the Rev. Alfred C. Crouch, delivering the charge to the new pastor.



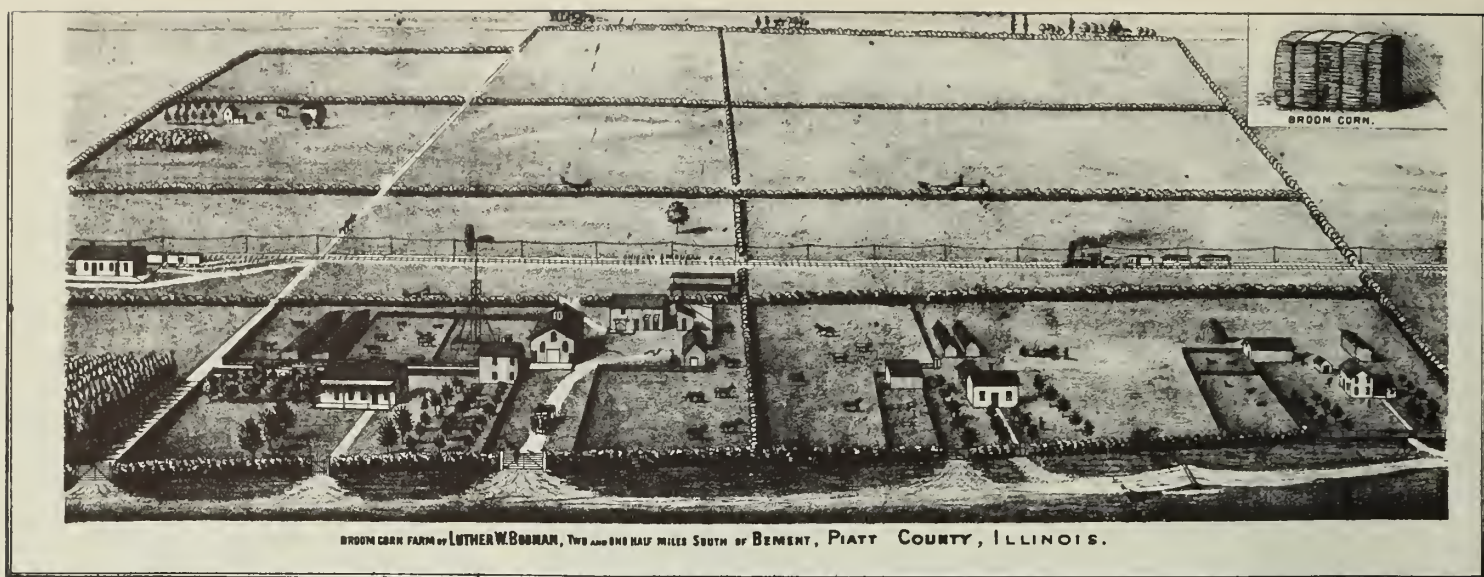
CHURCH OF GOD

The Church of God was organized 25 years or more ago by a group of people who held to the belief that Salvation makes one a member of the church. It still holds to this doctrine.

The first meetings were held in private homes. Later the members had tent meetings in the summer and early fall. Still later they worshipped in various buildings. In 1936 the three lots on

which the church and parsonage are now located were purchased and a building was moved to the corner lot. This building has been remodeled twice. In 1949 ten feet was added to the length of the building and a full basement with four classrooms was added. A new parsonage was built the same year.

The first regular pastor was Rev. Stanley Holley. The present pastor is Rev. C. H. Featherston.



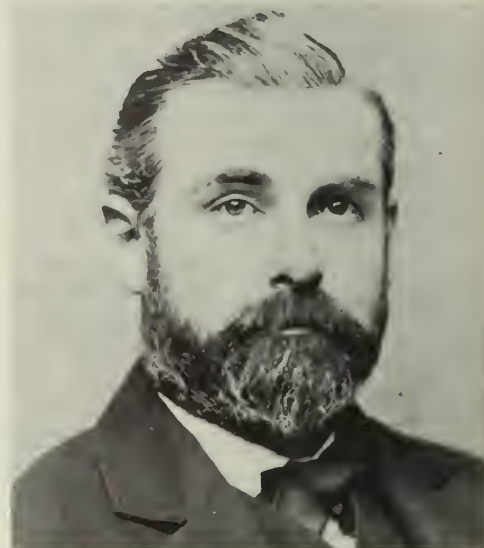
July 1881—Quote from "Country Gentleman" magazine.

A WESTERN BROOM-CORN FARM

Eds. Country Gentleman — Business having delayed me several hours at Bement, Ill., I took the opportunity to visit the farms owned and controlled by Mr. Luther Bodman of Northampton, Mass., and so well pleased was I with what I saw, that I give it for the benefit of your readers. The farms consist of some 3,000 acres; the lower or broom-corn ranch, of some 1,300 acres, being devoted to the raising of broom-corn, of which about 500 acres are raised each year. The rest of the land is devoted to pasture, meadow, and the raising of small grain, but broom-corn receives the principal attention. The upper

ranch, containing the remainder of the land is devoted to Indian corn, wheat, and flax. The day of our visit, there were fifteen riding plows going, each with three mules attached, turning furrows 16 inches wide averaging $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres per day; five planters, six harrows, four or five rollers, besides teams hauling manure, men ditching, etc., and we were forcibly struck with the order and quiet, and the attention of the army of laborers to their respective duties. Such thorough preparation of land for broom-corn I never saw. In fact, thoroughness was stamped upon everything. The absence of all litter and confusion, such as one would expect about such an establishment, the neatly painted buildings, and the cleanly whitewashed out-buildings, all showed that the owner was a thorough man of business. The crops this year upon the farm will consist of 500

acres of broom-corn, 1,200 acres of Indian corn, 200 of oats, 250 of flax, 300 of wheat, the rest hay and pasture. There are 35 teams, mostly fine Kentucky mules; about 150 head of hogs, although three or four hundred are raised and fattened each



A. S. Burr



1881—Workers all lined up prior to starting the day's work on the Bodman Broom Corn Farm. (This property was later purchased by Mr. A. S. Burr and is now known as the Burr Estate.) The Shepherd Family lived on the farm of Mr. A. S. Burr for a great many years, from the year 1881 when Mr. Burr came West to manage the Bodman land. The head of the Shepherd family, Mr. Phillip Shepherd, his wife, six sons, Johnson, Adam, John, Hiram, Jacob, Absalom and three daughters, Adelia, Frances, and Elizabeth. Mr. Emmett Shepherd, son of Absalom Shepherd lives on the Burr Estate now, and with his son Emmett Dean Shepherd, farms 720 acres of land. Mr. Philip Shepherd and his six sons are shown in the above photograph of the men and mule teams and two yoke of oxen taken in front of the large barn.

year on steamed food, comfortable quarters, etc. There are also about 100 head of fine fat steers, which will soon be sold. In fact, everything receives attention.

These notes would be incomplete without a slight reference to the manager of the establishment, Mr. A. S. Burr of Bridgeport, Ct., whose duties, to say nothing of the clerical work involved, require a high order of talent. That these duties are well done is clearly apparent; and I have yet to see the farm where brains, backed by a generous financial support, have better results to show than the above.

G. W. C.

Country Gentleman



BEMENT BAPTIST CHURCH

Reading from left to right: Ralph Neathery, Church Treasurer; Rev. Earl Harris, Pastor; Miss Patsy Westray, Sunday School Secretary; Russell Westray, Sunday School Supt.; Charles Neathery, Asst. Sunday School Supt.

BAPTIST CHURCH

A two weeks Revival was held in the American Legion Hall in Bement starting March 24, 1952 with Rev. Olen Coopridner, Sangamon Valley Associational Missionary as Evangelist and LeRoy

Geiger, pastor of the Hammond Baptist Church as song leader. The average attendance was sixty-five.

The first Sunday School services were held on March 30, with nine in attendance. Sunday morning worship services were held in

the Legion Hall and Cottage Prayer Meetings were held in the homes until the Craig building was rented in May, 1952. Rev. Coopridner served as pastor of the mission until June, 1952, when Rev. Lawrence Bolsen was called as pastor.

On June 7, 1953 a meeting was held in the Legion Hall and the Bement Mission was organized as the Bement Southern Baptist Church. Twelve pastors served on the council. The church was organized with fourteen charter members.

On August 12, 1953 the church called Rev. Earl Harris as pastor, and on February 18, 1954 the church purchased two lots in the south part of town as a site for their new church building. On Sunday afternoon, September 12, they held a short groundbreaking service, and on September 20, Allen Marquiss dug the basement. Work was soon started and the basement building was completed in April, 1955, with the members of the church doing most of the work.

The first services in the new church were held on Sunday, May 1, 1955. The average attendance is forty members.



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ORGANIZATIONS ---

BEMENT MASONIC LODGE

The oldest fraternal order in Bement is Bement Lodge No. 365 A. F. & A. M. It was one of the strongest and most influential organizations in the early history of Bement.

This Lodge was organized at a meeting held on January 26th, 1861. The following officers took part:

Francis E. Bryant, W. M.
J. O. Sparks, S. W.
William Stillwell, J. W.
T. T. Pettit, Treas.
E. Bruce Sprague, Secy.
William Waltman, S. D.
George L. Spear, J. D.
Aaron Yost, Tyler

The gavel used at this meeting is still in the possession of the present lodge. It bears two inscriptions:

"First gavel used in Bement Lodge No. 365—U. D."

"First Sounded Jan. 26, 1861"

The Lodge received its charter October 1, 1861 with the following as charter members: F. E. Bryant, H. A. Bodman, Charles Fisher, Jr., A. G. Gregory, G. M. Gregory, J. W. C. Gray, John A. Helman, T. T. Pettit, M. L. Ryder, J. O. Sparks, William Stillwell, E. Bruce Sprague, J. M. Taylor, and Aaron Yost.

On October 7, 1864 Bement



Chapter 65 Royal Arch Masons received its charter. Joseph Bodman was the first High Priest of the chapter which had 17 charter members.

On October 4, 1875 the Bement Masonic Association was chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois, "for the purposes of purchasing a site and erecting a building for Masonic purposes for the promotion of universal benevolences and charity." The cornerstone of the present building was laid with the usual formalities on May 25, 1876. The hall was dedicated the following fall with quite a ceremony. It was the custom in those early days to celebrate the completion of near-

ly every new building with a square dance. The building is the same today except that the original open stairway on the north which led from the street to the basement has long since disappeared from view.

For some years the basement was used by business firms including a bakery, a laundry, and a restaurant.

Masonic and Eastern Star Chapter rooms are on the 2nd floor. The 1st floor is used for the Bement Township Library.

IVY LEAF CHAPTER

No. 129 O. E. S.

Bement, Illinois

On Wednesday, September 12, 1888, the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron of Illinois came to Bement to institute a new Eastern Star Chapter, which was named the "Tenney" Chapter.

The first officers were:

Mrs. T. T. Pettit
Worthy Matron
Mr. George B. Alvord
Worthy Patron
Mrs. C. F. Tenney
Associate Matron
Mrs. W. M. Camp
Treasurer
Mr. T. T. Pettit
Secretary
Anna V. Pettit
Conductress
Mrs. George B. Alvord
Associate Conductress
Mabel Tenney
Martha
Ella Camp
Electa
Mrs. O. D. Tinkham
Warder
Mr. William Perkins
Tyler

Other charter members were: Mr. C. F. Tenney, Mayme Camp, Mr. O. D. Tinkham.

The first installation of Tenney Chapter was held November 20, 1888. In 1890, the members of Tenney Chapter went to Monticello to organize Monticello Chapter, No. 159.

At the Grand Chapter Session in October, 1905, Mrs. Knapp, Worthy Matron of Tenney Chapter, requested the name of the chapter be changed to "Ivy Leaf Chapter," as it is now known.

The following have been members for over 40 years:

Mr. George Tucker, Mrs. George Tucker (Worthy Matron



First row l. to r.: E. C. Haymes, Sec'y; Herbert Lust, S. D.; James Porter, S. W.; Ralph Clark, W. M.; Ralph Morgan, J. W.; Cecil Shonkwiler, J. D.
Second row: Delmar Burbin, S. S.; Kenneth Fisher, Tyler; Robert Still, Treas.; W. A. Drake, J. S.; A. L. Born, Chap.; and John Lash, Marshal.

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for four times), Mattie Body, Nellie Corwin, Floy Hawver, Arbie Hawver (Worthy Patron for 15 times), Mrs. Rose Stewart, and Grace LeFever.

The membership of Ivy Leaf Chapter has grown from the original 14 to the present membership of 129. The present members wish to express their thanks to those 14 people who 67 years ago had the initiative to undertake the responsibility of starting an Eastern Star Chapter in Bement.

The present officers are:

Virgie Brittenham
Worthy Matron
Lynn Peterson
Worthy Patron
Opal Hill
Associate Matron
Louis Miller
Associate Patron
Emma Peterson
Secretary
Selda Miller
Treasurer
Ruchiel Born
Conductress
Berniece Wildman
Associate Conductress
Nora Buckner
Chaplain
Mary Hillis Totten
Marshal
Gloria Larson
Organist
Mollie VanGorder
Adah
Cora Fish
Ruth
Chalice Larson
Esther
Lillie Larson
Martha
Alva Miles
Electa
Lucia Day
Warder
Harley Miles
Sentinel
Betty Miller
Instructress

Eastern Star meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

ODD FELLOWS LODGE

Irwin Lodge, No. 344, Bement, Illinois, I. O. O. F. was Instituted by Charter duly granted by the R. W. Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, with the following as charter members: R. F. Jones, Aaron Misenhelter, D. C. Moffit, E. O. Wallace, Peter Caughenbaugh, and J. N. Bills, bearing the date of October 9, 1867.

The first meeting of the Lodge however had been held earlier that year in February (1867), when the following were elected and installed into their respective offices: E. O. Wallace (Noble Grand), J. N. Bills (Vice Grand), R. F. Jones (Rec. Sec'y), Peter Caughenbaugh (Treasurer). The installing officer was Grand Master Herr. After installation the following were admitted to membership: C. Schoolcraft, Samuel Dearing, Joseph W. Fristoe, J. A. Force, C. Newton, Wm. L. Finley, John Hughes, H. A. Starks, and Peter Shaffer by a Dispensation duly granted by G M.

Elmer Bentley has held the office of Noble Grand the past year and the following are the officers for the coming year: Ed Busick (Noble Grand), Delmar Bentley (Vice Grand), Marion Bentley (Secretary), Elmer Bentley (Financial Secretary), and Fred Klump (Treasurer). They have regular meetings each Friday night with the County meeting on the third Monday of each month.

BRYANT MEMORIAL REBEKAH LODGE No. 65

Bryant Memorial Rebekah Lodge No. 65 was instituted on Nov. 8, 1950 in the Legion Hall at Bement.

Mildred Lebdusha, President of the Rebekah State Assembly of Illinois presented her staff of Assembly Officers who instituted the Bement Lodge with forty-three members signing the register and becoming charter members.

bers.

Cerro Gordo Rebekah Degree Staff conferred the degree on the new candidates. Those entering from other lodges were:

Betty Malohn (Monticello), Katherine Baird and Charles Baird (Assumption), Isabelle Shonkwiler and Elmer Bentley (by dismissal certificate, having been members in good standing in the disbanded Rebekah Lodge 688 of Bement), Opal Hixon (Atwood), and Florence Vaughn (Carthage, Ill.).

The first officers elected on Nov. 8, 1950 were:

Katherine Baird
Noble Grand
Betty Malohn
Vice Grand
Ruth Wright
Recording Secretary
Catherine McCullom
Finance Secretary
Edith Allison
Treasurer

Appointed Officers were:

Ida Bentley
Warden
Opal Hixon
Conductor
Isabelle Shonkwiler
Chaplain
Frances Bentley
Inside Guardian
Bernice Englehart
Outside Guardian
Mary Neal
R. S. to N. G.
Elma Spearman
R. S. to V. G.
Alberta McVicker
L. S. to N. G.
Sadie Shepherd
L. S. to V. G.



Women of the Rebekah Lodge at the Centennial Kick-Off Dinner

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The State President, Mildred Lebdusha, appointed Mabel Quayle of Decatur to act as special deputy for the lodge, which she held until 1954. Jane Gross of Cerro Gordo was the next appointed deputy, and Ruth Jones of Gerro Gordo is the present deputy.

Bryant Memorial No. 65 belongs to the 18th District of the Rebekah Lodge of Illinois. They hold their meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday nights of each month. There are 46 members at the present time: 41 Sisters, and 5 Brothers. They have lost three members by death: John Neal, Willis Harshbarger, and Opal Hixon (past Noble Grand).

The Lodge helps to support the Odd Fellows Home in Mattoon, Ill., and The Children's Home in Lincoln, Ill. The latest achievement was to help prepare and serve the Bement Centennial Kick-Off Banquet to 550 people. It was a great success, and the members were happy to have been a part. They are striving for more members to make their lodge stronger and Bement a better place in which to live through Rebekah Odd Fellowship.

The present officers of the Rebekah Lodge are:

- Marcalene Lamb, Jr.
Past Noble Grand
- Gladys Webb
Noble Grand
- Sadie Shepherd
Vice Grand
- Evelyn Fair
Recording Secretary
- Clova Smith
Financial Secretary
- Vula Durbin
Treasurer
- Appointed Officers:
- Eileen McCullough
Conductor
- Bonnie Allison
Warden
- Viola Adams
Chaplain
- Edna Lash
R. S. to N. G.
- Olive Larimore
L. S. to N. G.
- Fern Wildman
R. S. to V. G.
- Ruth Abel
L. S. to V. G.
- Hazel Liestman
Inside Guardian
- Dorothy Miles
Outside Guardian



BEMENT LIONS CLUB

The Bement Lions Club was first organized February 11, 1931. The first officers were:

- Dr. W. G. McPherson,
President
- H. E. Slusser,
1st Vice-Pres.
- J. B. Byerline,
2nd Vice-Pres.
- A. C. McDowell,
Sec'y & Treas.
- P. E. Peterson,
Tail Twister
- Rex Millikin,
Lion Tamer

Other charter members were: Rev. N. C. Griffin, Shirley Engle, L. D. Pfoff, L. A. Hodam, Andrew Swenson, E. E. Logan, Clyde Hill, A. T. McPherson, J. F. Sprague, D. E. Godfrey, W. W. Davis, Harry Hill, H. E. Dare, J. H. Malkus, and Chas. Baker.

Three of the original charter members, Dr. W. G. McPherson, L. A. Hodam, and H. E. Slusser are still members of the club. On May 31, 1936 the charter of this club was cancelled.

In 1941 the Bement Lions Club was again organized through the efforts of the late Andrew Swenson and other civic minded men of the community. Harry C. Roberts was elected president of the newly organized club and the charter night banquet was held at the Methodist church on Wednesday evening, May 21, 1941 with 49 charter members.

Today the Lions Club has 78 members and boasts of being the largest small town Lions Club in its district. The club has played a vital and active role in the civic affairs of Bement and the sur-

rounding community. In 1949 the Bement Lions Club organized the first Little League baseball team in the community, baseball for boys age 8 through 12. It actively sponsors this recreation for boys every summer. About 50 Bement boys participate in this baseball program each year. The club was responsible for sending a High School boy to Boys State for a week during the summer for several years. The club also stages the annual Halloween parade and has long sponsored Bement's traditional football banquet.

The Bement Lions Club is a part of the International Association of Lions Clubs, the largest service club organization in the world, with over half a million members in 11,335 clubs in 65 countries of the world.

Presidents of the Bement Lions Club since it was reorganized in 1941 are: Harry C. Roberts, Lew Wilkinson, E. A. Stout, A. E. Bodman, L. A. Hodam, H. E. Slusser, Roy B. Jones, George Wilkinson, R. N. Holloway, David P. Marker, John J. Glennon, Lynn Crook, James D. Raglan, and Carl J. Edwards.

The following are officers for the coming year:

- Glen Durbin
President
- Frank Yeates
1st Vice-Pres.
- John W. Walsh
2nd Vice-Pres.
- Joseph Foster
Sec'y & Treas.
- Stanley Powell
Tail Twister
- Wyman Patterson
Lion Tamer

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LITTLE LEAGUE baseball was founded by Carl E. Stotz in Williamsport, Pa. in 1939 and the sport spread westward from the Atlantic coast until today it is one of the fastest growing boy's activities in the country. It is regulation baseball but played on a 60-foot diamond and limited to boys between the ages of 8 through 12. Little League baseball has been described as Big League baseball adapted to the mental and physical capacities of the boys of America.

The Bement Lions Club organized the first Little League team in 1949 and the response of the boys was so enthusiastic that the club has sponsored the activity ever since. Bement was one of the early communities in

the area to have Little League baseball.

Boys out for the sport are divided into two groups in Bement: the Major League Lions team for the older, more experienced boys; and three Minor League teams for beginning players. The Major League team is coached by Dean Stout, assisted by Don Stout. The three Minor League teams are the All Stars, coached by Gene Holloway, assisted by Francis Speltz; the Reds, coached by Frank Yeates, assisted by Ronnie Robbins; and the Blues, coached by Linzey Corum. All Bement teams play a regular schedule of baseball in the Cham-Piatt League, consisting of Ivesdale, Sadorus, Pesotum, Mahomet and Bement.



The Post has been active in support of civic events and improvements in the community and makes an annual presentation of the American Legion school award to one boy and one girl graduating from the grade school.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The "White House," now the residence of R. E. Hardin, was the scene of much activity on May 13, 1931 when 20 patriotic women of the Bement community took the initial steps necessary in organizing the American Legion Auxiliary to Albert Parker Post 620 of Bement, Illinois.

This exclusive group, all eligible for membership, through Father, Son, Brother, or Husband, dedicated themselves to unselfish service "To God and Country."

The charter was signed on July 31, 1931.

To commemorate this first meeting of these women at the "White House" an annual Luncheon is held each year in May, for all members and their guests, thus keeping the memories and incidents of that first meeting alive.

The charter officers were:

Lissie M. Crookshank
President
Opal Fisher
1st Vice-Pres.
Goldia Peterson
2nd Vice-Pres.
Stella Moore
Secretary
Ruth Patterson
Treasurer
Bertha Parker*
Chaplain
Marie Harden
Sergeant-at-Arms

Other charter members were:
Rose Biggs*, Julia Brya, Alta



AMERICAN LEGION POST

Albert Parker Post No. 620, the American Legion, was named for Sgt. Albert H. Parker, Co. B, 5th Machine Gun Battalion, U. S. A., the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Parker, Bement, Illinois, who was killed in action in France on November 5, 1918.

The Charter of the Post was issued on the 28th day of April, 1920 with the following listed as charter members:

Francis E. Morrow
Elmer Haynes
Percy H. Hill
Frank Flavin
George L. Clark
Eugene D. Evans
Olin L. Day
John S. Carlin
Elmer L. Kelly
T. R. Clark
C. E. Morrow
L. L. High
Roy A. McKinney
J. A. Muthersbaugh
Paul R. Flowers

The present officers of the Post are:

Napoleon Jackson, Commander.

William W. Redman, Vice-Commander

Bryan Wilson, Finance Officer
Ralph E. Wright, Adjutant.

The Post at this time has 90 members.

In 1946 the Post purchased the building located on East Bodman Street, Bement, which had formerly been occupied by Andrew Swenson's Furniture Store and Funeral Establishment. The building is made available for the use without cost to Albert Parker Unit No. 620, the American Legion Auxiliary and the local unit of Mothers of World War II, as well as to local civic and religious meetings. A number of the members of the Post have been Commanders of the Piatt County Council of The American Legion and one member, Bryan Wilson, has been 19th District Commander.

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(* Deceased.)

From the original 20 members who signed the Constitution, the Legion Auxiliary has maintained a steady growth in membership, ever adding to their roster all eligible women who desire to be associated with the Legion Auxiliary, and membership now stands at 92. Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month.

The Aims and Services of the Auxiliary are to promote Child Welfare and Rehabilitation. The local unit has done this in the following ways:

- By distributing books and patriotic literature in the public schools and library.
- By encouraging school children to write and submit essays on important matters pertaining to Americanism.
- By contributing to the National Organization towards establishing auxiliary loan funds for education of orphans of veterans to further their education, and for scholarships which are available to pupils who strive for higher learning.
- By sending a High School Junior girl of outstanding traits to Girls State at MacMurray College in Jacksonville for one week to study and learn the ways of good government.
- By selling the "Miracle Flower of Flanders Field," namely the poppy.
- By promoting and encouraging students to enter the Poppy Poster Contests.

By contributions and services rendered to the Veterans Hospital at Danville.

The present officers are:

Mrs. Wayne Redman
President
Mrs. Louis Miller
1st Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Clyde Wrench
2nd Vice-Pres.
Mrs. T. R. Clark
Secretary
Mrs. Ward Dare
Treasurer
Mrs. Harry Lamb
Chaplain
Mrs. Loren Hampton
Sergeant-at-Arms
Mrs. Harold Wittig
Sergeant-at-Arms

The following are Gold Star members: Mrs. Edna Bruce, Mrs. Eva Buxton, Mrs. Ray Kintner, Mrs. Thilda Larson, Mrs. James Raglan, Mrs. Charles Ray, Mrs. Scott Sutphen, Mrs. S. O. Turner.

HOME BUREAU IN BEMENT

The birth of the home economic extension work in Bement and Piatt County was accomplished by women who had read in the papers of the activities of such organizations in other counties.

Through the efforts of these ladies, with the help of the Farm Adviser at that time, Mr. S. S. Davis; and the assistance of the home extension staff of the University of Illinois, Home Bureau organization was planned and started. At the time it seemed best for Douglas and Piatt counties to organize together.

On August 14, 1930 the first meeting was held at the Atwood High School with Mrs. S. T. Veach presiding. There were 103

in attendance. It was voted that these two counties organize together as the "Douglas-Piatt Home Bureau." The first officers were:

President — Mrs. John McCarty, Douglas
1st Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Charles Blickensderfer, Piatt
2nd Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Lester Smith, Douglas
Secretary — Mrs. J. E. Miller, Piatt

The purpose of the organization was to interest all the ladies of the communities in worthwhile activities and to develop leadership.

The aims of the Home Bureau are as follows:

To Have Every Home:
Economically Sound
Mechanically Convenient
Mentally Stimulating
Morally Wholesome
Artistically Satisfying
Physically Healthy
Socially Responsible
Spiritually Inspiring
Founded Upon Mutual Affection and Respect.

By 1937 the membership had increased until it was necessary to separate the counties into two organizations.

A meeting was held December 1, 1937 in the Monticello High School with 200 ladies present. Mrs. Frank LeFever of Milmine presided. Officers were elected to serve until September 1, 1938. There were twelve original units in the Piatt County organization: Bement, Bethel, Blue Ridge, Centerville, Cerro Gordo, Cisco, Hammond, Lodge, Milmine, Monticello, R. F. D., and Voorhies.

The following women have served as Home Advisers:

Miss Mary Duckworth	1930-32
Miss Christy Hepler	1933-35
Miss Lucille Gring	1935-36
Miss Lucille Swenson	1937-41
Miss Bernice Smith	1941-42
Miss Lorennie Berry	1942-

The interest in Home Bureau work has increased thru the years and at the present time there are 18 units in Piatt County with a membership of 432 plus 20 associate members.

The Home Bureau has been responsible for the starting of various 4-H Clubs, Better Leadership, Greater Participation in Community Affairs, and a Broad-er World Vision.

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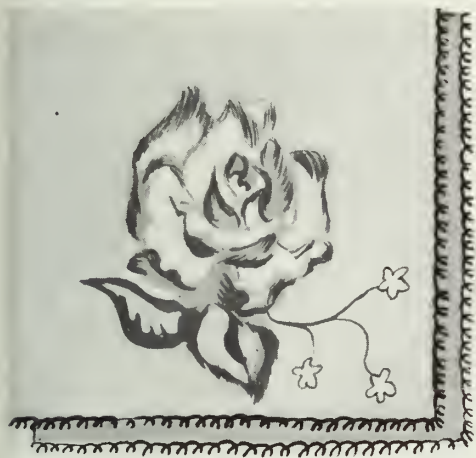


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onstration Work makes it possible for members to continue Home Economics Studies in their local groups under University guidance.

Many interesting reports of Home Bureau accomplishments are given each year during Farm & Home Week at the U. of I.



BEMENT SENIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

Fifty-nine years ago, the Bement (Senior) Woman's Club was organized on a beautiful October day in 1896. Of the ten charter members, four served as president: Mrs. Fred Unholtz, Mrs. J. F. Knapp, Mrs. W. W. Hammond, and Mrs. L. H. Alvord. The other charter members were: Mrs. Albert Boggs, Mrs. Edith Burks (now Mrs. Edward Back), Mrs. Clara Conroy, Mrs. Tracy Holland, Miss Helen Thompon, and Mrs. S. K. Bodman. Later after the county and 19th District were duly organized, the Bement Club was Federated and in 1929 they joined the General Federation of Woman's Clubs — an International Federation.

From the first, education and social life were stressed. Later civic and community problems were undertaken. The library has been the outstanding work of the club since its organization. For many years, Mrs. W. G. Cloyd headed the Library Committee, and year after year helped to keep the library open until the township voted a Library Tax and a librarian was hired. Most of the members helped in some way and collected and donated books and magazines.

Other presidents of the club have been: Mrs. Hudson Martin, Mrs. Charles Lamb, Mrs. J. L. Bodman, Mrs. J. C. Evans, Mrs. E. H. Camp, Mrs. W. A. Ham-

mond, Mrs. H. Schwab, Mrs. A. L. Wilkinson, Mrs. H. E. Shaw, Miss Annie Mitchell, Mrs. Andrew Swenson, Miss Rebecca Clark, Mrs. W. W. Davis, Miss Kathryn B. Fisher, Mrs. A. L. Pelton, Mrs. Carl Thompson, Mrs. Fletcher Beck, Mrs. Darl Evans, Miss Minnie Fisher, Mrs. J. R. Bower, Mrs. E. E. Folk, Mrs. S. M. Postlewait, Mrs. W. G. McPherson, Mrs. Roy B. Jones, Mrs. C. J. Tinkham, Mrs. E. C. Haynes, Mrs. A. T. McPherson, Mrs. E. S. Bodman, Mrs. Margaret Cloyd Wilson, Mrs. Rex. Millikin, Mrs. Urban Kottler, Mrs. Frank Bryan, Mrs. J. F. Sprague, Mrs. G. L. Burgess, Mrs. Fred Dabler and Mrs. R. H. Smith, Mrs. J. B. Byerline, Mrs. Harry Roberts, Mrs. Clarence Lefever, Mrs. L. A. Hodam, Mrs. Lucy Moore, Mrs. Blake Livingston. Mrs. Livingston is the president for the 1955-56 term.

There are five members who have been in the club for over



BEMENT JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB (EVENING WOMAN'S CLUB)

The Bement Junior Woman's Club was organized in December, 1928, at the home of Mrs. Nellie McPherson, who was elected sponsor and later elected to life membership. The presidents have been as follows: Mrs. Mary Glynn Bleitz, Mrs. Thelma Priestly Durbin, Mrs. Beulah Fay Hill, Mrs. Cecelia Farrell Sinkevitch, Mrs. Lucille Madden Coffin, Mrs. Jeanette Piggott Henebry, Mrs. Lotha Lowman Clark, Mrs. Alice

40 years, served as president, and have been made life members: Mrs. J. L. Bodman, Mrs. W. A. Hammond, Mrs. A. L. Pelton, Mrs. A. L. Wilkinson, and the late Mrs. Andrew Swenson.

National Authors' Day which is widely observed throughout the United States had its birth in Bement. The original resolution was submitted by Nellie Verne Burt McPherson while she was president of the Bement Woman's Club. It was sponsored by the local club, the Piatt County Federation, the 19th District, State and National Organizations. The resolution was presented to the National Convention where it was adopted May 31, 1929, and the date of November 1 was set aside for its observance. The purpose of National Authors' Day is "To show patriotism and appreciation to those who have given us a literature, and to encourage and inspire others to lend their talents in making a better America."

Haynes Merry, Mrs. Leona Holloway, Miss Helen Monaghan, Mrs. Dorothy Moore Vandercreek, Mrs. Jeanne Edwards Jones, Mrs. Ellen Morris, and Miss Marian Bloomer.

The Junior Club was District and State Federated in 1929 and joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1944 as a Senior Woman's Club, changing their name to the Evening Woman's Club — with the same objective and motto: "Greater spiritual development in that service that will aid the recipient and strengthen the giver."

The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from September through April at 7:45 P. M. at the High School. Some of their special interests have been: The Bement Library with a donation of 100 books the first year; National Author's Day with special programs and in 1932 a special radio broadcast by the Club Chorus and members; 19th District Scholarship Fund with donations each year — the first student to use this fund was Mildred Wrench while a member of this club; and musical scholarships for high school students. They also have donated to the County Nursing Home, Bement Red Cross, March of Dimes, Boy and

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Girl Scouts, and the Bement Centennial Committee. This year they plan to sponsor a Centennial Luncheon to honor Mrs. Helen Chapman, International President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The following women have been made Life Members in recognition of 25 years or more of continuous membership: Marguerite Allen, Lotha Clark, Guy-nell Creel, Irene Durbin, Thelma Durbin, Helen Fay, Beulah Hill, Helen Jeffers, and Nellie McPherson.



BEMENT TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Literary Societies and "schools for polemics" were active in Bement's very early years. In the fall of 1866, at a meeting of one of these societies, a suggestion was made that a society be organized for general reading, and the Tableau Society pledged its funds to such an enterprise. In the pursuance of the suggestion, a public meeting was held with George L. Spear as chairman. The meeting was poorly attended, but an association was formed and \$134. was subscribed for the purchase of books. A constitution was adopted in December, 1866, and the following officers were elected: Mr. George L. Spear, president; Mr. R. S. Hopkins, 1st vice-president; Joseph Bodman, treasurer, and H. A. Coffeen, librarian. With funds from dues, private contributions, and a series of lectures, the library was well started.

On May 29, 1877, James S. Peairs, Robert Fisher, P. A. Duncan, N. N. Vance, John R. Klapp, T. Sterling, Jessie Hughes, Anna Dunn, Geneva Dunn, Henry N. Camp, G. A. Stadler, and Ada Newton applied for incorporation of "The Bement Literary and

Library Association, the business and object of which shall be intellectual, social and moral improvement of its members and the community at large, the same to be under the direction and control of (7) seven directors, the names of whom as selected for the first year are Thomas Lamb, Hortense Klapp, Wm. G. Cloyd, Anna Dunn, Robert Fisher, Mary Thomas, and Curtis J. Hinman."

In addition to regular meetings, this group of younger men and women presented programs of readings, essays, debates, dramatics and music for the public and without doubt they aided the library financially. Perhaps they were not single-minded enough, because on September 26, 1878, at which time there were 914 volumes on the shelves, a petition for incorporation of "The Library Association of Bement," signed by L. W. Bodman, B. B. Bacon, F. E. Bryant, S. K. Bodman, Joseph Bodman, and D. W. C. Niles, all older men, was forwarded to the Secretary of State; and the "Library Association of Bement" was chartered September 27, 1878. The directors were: Chas. F. Tenney, Joseph Bodman, A. D. Newton, L. W. Bodman, Lucy F. Knapp, and Clara Bodman. By paying \$10.00, one became a life member and paid no dues; \$5.00 made one an elector, with dues of 50c a year; annual members paid \$1.00. The rest of the money was raised by subscription. The library was open for two hours on Saturday afternoon. Two books a week were allowed to each member. In 1893, with 1224 volumes, and a circulation of 3000 books a year, it was, according to Miss Emma Piatt, "by far the best in the county."

In 1897, the newly organized Woman's Club took over the books belonging to the Bement Library Association, as it was called, continuing it as a subscription library—one dollar a year. Until 1910, it was housed in a room in the First National Bank Building, given rent free by Mr. W. M. Camp. When remodeling was done, it moved to the Loud-enback building, staying there for more than a year. Then it moved to another rent-free room, an inside room over the State Bank, offered by Mr. H. E. Shaw. Mr. George Thompson shared the heat of his office, which was an adjoining room, and a coal oil

lamp furnished light.

In April 1912, a one mill tax proposition for a free township library was defeated by 212 votes. The next November, Rev. Shirley and Rev. Enninger secured subscriptions from the business and professional men which enabled the club to buy and equip a reading table and keep the library open one afternoon and two evenings a week for a year. After that, the dollars from readers, part of the Club dues, and the proceeds from the sale of waste paper an entertainment, two waffle suppers, a chicken frv, and a Christmas sale paid the rent and bought books. Mr. J. F. Sprague made no charge for the coal and the librarians made their own fires, carried out the ashes, and swept the floors. Other club members helped with periodical heavy cleaning.

In 1920, books were borrowed from the Illinois State Library Extension Division, and the library was made free. In 1921, after a tax proposal was again defeated, it was closed and the books were stored. Three yars later it was reopened with the State books, in a grade school basement room, with Woman's Club members taking turns as librarian. One year Mrs. Nellie McPherson stayed every Saturday; and for another year and more the every-member system was used again. Mrs. W. G. Cloyd headed the Library Committee, and year after year helped to keep the library open.

In 1936, the tax proposal carried and the following were elected as the first Library Board: Mrs. J. L. Bodman, Mrs. Clarence Funk, Mrs. W. G. McPherson, Kenneth Burgess, Arbie Hawver, and George Larson. They immediately commenced work on the project of getting a library started. The first floor of the Masonic Building was leased and remodeled. During the summer of 1938, Mrs. Fred Lux and Miss Wilma Lux sorted, repaired and catalogued the old books. Miss Merrett Winegarner was employed as librarian. She was followed by Mrs. Berlyn Leach, Mrs. Lyle Stotts, Miss Sybil Romack, and again by Mrs. Lyle Stotts. On April 1, 1946, Mrs. Charles Pier-son became librarian and remained until the time of her death in the fall of 1954. Many of our children have benefitted from



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her helpful and patient service. Mrs. Stotts, who had returned as Mrs. Pierson's assistant, was appointed to take her place. Her assistant is Mrs. Arthur Edwards.

Three of the six original members, Mrs. J. L. Bodman, Mrs. W. G. McPherson, and George Larson are still on the board. Charles Ball replaced Arbie Hawver, and Roy B. Jones replaced Mr. Ball. This spring (1955) Mrs. Walter Morris and Mrs. R. R. Siders Jr. were elected to take the places of Mrs. Clarence Funk and Kenneth Burgess. Mr. Larson has been the secretary of the board since its beginning.

At the time of the opening, there were about 1000 volumes on the shelves. There are now 8102 (5483 adult and 2619 childrens), and 38 magazines and newspapers, (30 for adults and 8 for children). There are 1215 borrowers (610 adults and 605 children).



PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Bement Parent-Teachers Association was granted a charter by the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers on Dec. 4, 1935. This organization was active until 1940, when the charter was dropped.

The P.T.A. was reorganized at a meeting held in the High School Gym on January 6, 1949. Eighty-four persons attended this meeting, and seventy-five agreed to become members of the new organization.

The following officers were elected:

Mrs. Blake Livingston,
President
Elmer Larimore,
1st. Vice-Pres.

Mrs. Zelma Morris,
2nd Vice-Pres.
Wilbur Hawbaker,
Secretary
Mrs. Joe DeFore,
Treasurer

The second Thursday of each month was selected as the regular meeting date.

The objects of P.T.A. are:

To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community.

To raise the standards of home life.

To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child.

To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

The Bement P.T.A. is now a part of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers as well as the State group. In 1950, the Illinois State Congress of P.T.A. started a "Golden Jubilee Scholarship." The Bement P.T.A. has contributed towards this scholarship since that time and Bement has been very fortunate in having two of their youths selected for this honor. Miss Phyllis Murphy was awarded the first "Golden Jubilee Scholarship" awarded in 1950, and this year, Miss Frances Dick has received the scholarship. This is a \$1000 scholarship, awarded for one year, and renewed for three years at the rate of \$250 annually if the grades of the student are satisfactory.

The following have served as president of the P.T.A.: Mrs. Blake Livingston, Mrs. John Glennon, Mrs. Lynn Born, Mrs. Walter Morris, Mrs. Alfred L. Moore, Mrs. Willard Morris, Mrs. Roy Fay.

The officers for the coming years are as follows:

Eugene Wright, President
Mrs. Joe Tracy, Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Elton Haynes, Secy.
J. K. Steidinger, Treasurer



BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scouting was renewed in Bement in 1950. Since that time there have been approximately 150 boys in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorer Scouts participating in a very active program.

The aims of scouting are to provide a healthy outdoor program for all the boys who wish it, to help in training boys to work and play together in a harmonious manner, and to help in training boys to become useful citizens. How well these aims are accomplished depends on the work and cooperation of the boys, the boys' parents, the sponsoring organization, the troop committee, the leaders, and the support of the rest of the citizens of the community.

Bement Boy Scout Troop No. 58 is sponsored by the Inter-Church Council with the following as the Troop Committee: R. N. Holloway, Chairman; E. A. Stout, Rev. D. Ross Fleming, Rev. Clyde E. West, and Glen Durbin. The Scoutmaster is Frank Yeates. There are 35 boys in the Scout Troop at the present time. The highlight of the Boy Scout program this Centennial year will be a 15 day camping trip to Yellowstone National Park. There will be 26 boys and 8 adults leaving on this trip the 15th of August.

The Cub Scout program in Bement is sponsored by the P. T. A. with the following as the Troop Committee: S. Royal, Edward Masters, Robert Harper, Don Haws, and Raymond Dick. Ray Robbins also attends the committee meetings as the representative of the P. T. A. There are 26 boys in Cub Scouts at this time. John Pope serves as Cubmaster, and Milford Bentley as assistant Cubmaster. Den Mothers are: Mrs. Dave Marker, Mrs. Loren Ball, Mrs. Ray Carpenter, Mrs. Don Haws, and Mrs. Lester Hord.

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The highlight for the Cub Scouts this year was their Spring Carnival which was a big success. It displayed the great amount of time and work spent by the boys, the Den Mothers, the Cubmasters, and the Pack Committee.



GIRL SCOUTS

The Bement Girl Scouts were reorganized in August of 1951. They received their charter and became a member of the National Organization in November of the same year.

The purpose of Girl Scouting is to teach the girls to be self-reliant, to enjoy the great out-of-doors, to be useful, and to become better citizens. These are all accomplished by the help of the girl's parents, the community, the sponsoring organization, the troop committee, and the leaders.

Girl Scout Lone Troop No. 1 is sponsored by the P.T.A. with the following as the Troop Committee: Mrs. Clarence Janes, Mrs. Wm. Scott, Mrs. Lewis McVicker, Mrs. Allen Mardis, and Frank Yeates. There are 39 girls in the Scout program at the present time. Mrs. Frank Yeates and Mrs. H. M. Vandercreek serve as the Girl Scout Leaders, and Mrs. Art Knowles is the Assistant Leader.

Some of the highlights of Girl Scouting in Bement this past year were the Christmas Ornaments and Gift Project, their cook-outs, hikes, and of course their Girl Scout Summer Camp.



Bottom row from the left: Fanny Smith, Eva Kimmel, Cora Niles, and Mae Muthersbough.
2nd row from the left: Dora Trabue (Groves), next two people have not been identified, Lena Winestein, Ada Ruby (Burke-Back), and Ellen Evans.
3rd row from the left: Anna Pettit, Geneva Dunn (Hicks), Nettie Brooks (Body) and Mabel Tenney (Ricketts).
This picture taken about 1880.



Bottom row—from the left: C. L. Body, Joe Dill, Romie Winestein.
2nd row from the left: Will Ruby, Amos Show, Bert Force, Harve Muthersbough, Norman Camp, and Al Ricketts.
3rd row from the left: Doctor Trabue, Byron Dyarman, George Lewis, Marsh Bridges, and Isaac Scott.
This picture was taken about 1880.

October 12, 1909 — Buster Brown and his dog Tige were at W. W. Body's store in Bement.
A ledger kept by S. K. Bodman in 1865-66 gave these prices: Coal Oil, \$1.00 per gallon; Linseed Oil, \$2.00 per gallon; White Lead, 14c per lb.; Quinine, \$3.50 per ounce.

Oct. 10, 1901 — The new cement sidewalks being put in this week on Bodman street, from L. H. Alvords grocery west to Rhode's saloon, and in front of the post office and Lancaster and Oldridge's barber shop, is a much needed improvement and one which should be extended

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HISTORY OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

The life of a medical practitioner in a newly settled country was generally one of toil and hardship; compensation was usually meager and however extensive the physician's practice might have been, much of it was gratuitously rendered because of the poverty of his patients. A few bushels of potatoes or winter vegetables, a barrel of apples or freshly butchered meat were often taken in lieu of money. Truly, this was the day of the horse and buggy doctor, for he drove over bad roads and forded streams as he shivered under his buffalo robe.

Many of those early doctors who ministered to the sick in this community were not graduates of any medical institution and today would not be recognized as competent physicians, but they exercised what knowledge they had in the interest of suffering humanity, and deserve credit for what they did.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN BEMENT

Bement's First Doctor

Dr. John R. Klapp, graduate physician, farmer and Supervisor wins this honor, for he was living on a farm southeast of Bement and served the sick in 1856. He was a native of Ohio, born in 1812. Dr. Klapp moved to Texas in 1889 and later moved to Salina, Kansas where he died in 1894. He and his wife and two daughters are buried in Bement.

Dr. John H. Leal was in the village in 1857, and must have been above the average, for he was considered the best surgeon in the county. Dr. Leal moved to California in 1871.

Dr. John H. Taylor, one of the county's oldest settlers, was Dr. Leal's partner for seven years until he left Bement in 1868.

Dr. John Scott was a resident of Bement until 1875, when he moved to Kentucky, but it is thought that he didn't practice medicine while in Bement as he was engaged in looking after his farming interests.

Dr. Margaret Ferguson Routh,

a pioneer mother and physician was a remarkable woman. She did not graduate from medical school, but did study children's diseases mainly for the purpose of successfully raising her own children. When widowed she moved to the Bement community. People came to her for medical advice and treatment, and although she never weighed over 100 lbs., she rode horseback all over the territory, including the Lake Fork district, fifteen miles from her home. She died in Bement in 1903 at the age of 84.

The Piatt County Democrat of August 6, 1859, published the following notice: "J. W. Lawrence, M.D. has located in Bement." There is no other information available, so it is thought that he didn't stay in Bement for long.

Dr. Chipman had his card in the papers of March 4, 1865, claiming to be a late surgeon of the Army, with a cure for the "Ager". He advertised that he would be in the Floyd House at Monticello every Saturday all day and spend the rest of the time in Bement.

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R. R. Siders

Ralph R. Siders, Jr. — Dan F. Siders

Dr. Noah Noble Vance was born in Newport, Kentucky, March 20, 1845, and later moved to Indiana. In the Civil War he served with the "Bloody" 123rd Regiment. Dr. Vance graduated from the Cincinnati Medical College in March, 1868. His wife was Fanny Routh, daughter of Dr. Routh. They were married in Bement Dec. 24, 1872. To them were born five sons: Walter Noble; William Baker; Harvey Marshal, M.D.; James St. Clair, M.D.; and George Edward.

Dr. Vance first located in Cerro Gordo, and later moved to Bement where he was a partner of Dr. Leal for a short time. Dr. Vance had a large practice, but was poorly paid because he was the quiet unassuming type that hated to ask people for money. He was a natural surgeon, and having no hospital to aid him often used his own home for a hospital. —Harvey Fay, for years Piatt County Clerk, had his arm torn off by a corn shredder and Dr. Vance took care of him. His son Noble, in a letter describes the case as follows: "I remember the calm skill with which Dad coolly, yet quickly did that terrible amputation on Harvey; with the tissues pulled clear from the middle of his back, and his arm chewed up to the shoulder; later I remember the



Dr. and Mrs. N. N. Vance

strained, driven sort of look and unskillful sort of trembling way he nipped the first skin graft off my arm, as well as off Harvey's good arm, in his effort to get the skin to cover up that shoulder; after the first graft Dad was alright, and today no scar can be found on me except for the first one."

January 15, 1879, Dr. Vance and his family moved to Texas but later returned to Bement. In 1881 Dr. Vance was appointed Wabash Surgeon, and was elected president of the County Medical Society, when it was reorganized in 1904. He died May 10, 1916, at the age of 71.

Dr. Joel J. Parker came about 1870, and stayed several years.

He was classed as a good doctor, but was inclined to get nervous and excited over a patient's condition. He had "Vapor Baths" which he used in his practice, but it is stated that no one remembered taking one. In fact Bement probably preferred the washtub by the kitchen stove on Saturday night. He left Bement about 1878.

Dr. William S. Ruby was a Civil War veteran, a scout and spy in the conflict. He came to Bement in 1870 to practice homeopathy. Many stories were told about this man, and opinions differ. For example, we are told that he was in the penitentiary for murder; another says he was being taken to the pen when he jumped out of the car window, swam a river and enlisted in the Union Army. He did shoot John Cole in Bement, who died some weeks later, but Ruby was acquitted on grounds of self-defense. Dr. Ruby had a drug store and as did most of the rest in those days, sold whiskey. A clerk slept in the back room at night; a tap was heard on the window, it was raised slightly and a hand with 50 cents came in, a pint went out, that's all . . . In 1888 he moved to California where he later shot himself in 1896.

Dr. George P. Ruby was a

Miss Nellie Alvord and her Orchestra



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SALUTES BEMENT

ON ITS CENTENNIAL

graduate of the New York Homeopathic School in 1877; was in Monticello as an eye and ear man as well as general practice. He moved to Bement, where he stayed two years, and during the two years he had eight runaways and ruined three buggies. He died in the Jacksonville Hospital in the nineties.

Dr. W. W. Nelson came in 1875, stayed two months and moved on to Missouri.

Dr. R. Fisher located here in 1877, but no doubt the "Practice Act" ruined him the same year.

Dr. John W. Smith, graduate of Jefferson Medical came in 1882, but after a short stay moved to South Dakota.

Dr. J. R. Nelson opened a drug store in Bement in 1877. He was a cripple due to tuberculosis of one foot and ankle, and this caused his death Jan. 31, 1879 at the age of thirty-three.

Dr. A. C. Douglas of Decatur, a graduate of Rush in 1865 bought the drug store and moved to Bement April 1, 1879. He left in 1884 and moved to Lake City and still later to Minnesota.

Dr. David B. Hawks—Little is known of this man, but in an old newspaper dated 1877, a report was shown that Dr. Hawks, at that time fifty-seven years old was found in a critical condition in his office. Old settlers reported that he was a drug user. He died March 28, 1889, aged sixty-nine.

Dr. Alanson Stockwell came to Bement after forty-eight years of practice to retire. This was in the year 1878. He died Dec. 8, 1879 and is buried in the Bement Cemetery.

Dr. P. A. Rosenberger came to Bement Feb. 19, 1879. According to the papers, he came highly recommended but that is all we know of him.

Dr. Edward Swaney came to Bement with his bride (Miss Emily Camp of a prominent Bement family) from Ohio, about 1870. He was president of the village board in the eighties—a great hunter and real sportsman. He died in 1891.

Dr. Lyman T. Gregory, homeopathic physician located in Bement in 1883, but soon moved to Lovington where he lived for years before moving to California.

Dr. E. H. Graves was born in 1849 and came to Bement in

1884. He left several times going to Boody, Bethany and once to Arkansas, but always returned to Bement. Here he died in 1909 at the age of sixty. Dr. Graves was a man of deep religious convictions; a foe of liquor and vice in general and probably hurt his business by being a little too militant, too free to express his views on these subjects.

Dr. H. H. Hall, a homeopath came from Taylorville in 1888. He was a big man with brown whiskers, and a man of great dignity. While in Bement he was following the fad of the homeopaths of that time, of curing most diseases by using rectal dilators on their patients. He later got into trouble for selling whiskey. He was acquitted in the Justice of Peace Court, but when the State's Attorney got busy Hall skipped out, not bothering to take his furniture.

Dr. M. D. Cook — He was not a graduate, but practiced some. He was so good that he told the exact time a certain patient would die—and she did, proving that Doc was a good guesser . . . His other stock in trade was well-digging and he was just as proficient in that art as in medicine, perhaps more so . . .

Doctor's Fee Bill (From Bement Register—April 21, 1904).

On and after May 1, 1904, we the undersigned physicians of Bement will charge for our services according to the following fee bill:

For office examinations and medicine, not less than 50c
Single visits in town-----\$ 1.50
Night visits in town, between 10 P. M. and 6 A. M.-----\$ 2.00
Extra patients in same family -----50c to \$ 1.00
Day riding, \$2.00 for first mile and 50c for each additional mile.
Night riding, \$2.00 for first mile and \$1.00 for each additional mile.
Obstetrics, uncomplicated \$10.00
Detained services in obstetrics over five hours, \$1.00 per extra hour.
Delivery by turning, or forceps----\$15.00 to \$20.00
Consultation visits -----\$10.00
Minor surgical operations-----\$1.00 to \$5.00
Gonorrhea—\$5.00 in advance and \$1.00 for each additional prescription.
Fractures-----\$10.00 to \$25.00
Administering chloroform or ether-----\$ 5.00 to \$10.00
All fees considered due when services are rendered.



THE BEMENT BAND—1903

Reading from left to right: 1st row—F. L. McClure, Bert Pryor, Herbert B. Schuh.
2nd row—Earl Bowyer, Troy Medaris, Harry Loudonback, M. C. Campbell, A. S. Ward.
3rd row—Director Alexander, S. W. Bodman, Charles Pope, Andrew Swenson, L. L. Byerline, R. R. Siders, Dr. Albright.
4th row—W. A. Steele, E. B. Sprague, Dr. J. G. Bauer, Darl Evans, Cyrus Bruce, Walter Dawson.

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Dr. Albert L. Trabue was born in Indiana, but came to Bement when he was a boy. He studied medicine and practiced in Kansas before returning to Bement. He always enjoyed a good practice when not whipped out by "King Alky," and had quit many times on account of it.

Dr. Martin Van Buren Turley, tiring of Cerro Gordo, came to Bement in 1889, but after one year left. He must have tired of Bement also.

Dr. Louis S. Kelly, who graduated as a homeopath in New York in 1891, was here for a short time but moved to Chicago where he was proprietor of the Ogden House.

Dr. J. D. Donavan, "A New Allopath Doctor," came in 1896, then moved to Lake City and later to Lovington.

Dr. Charles W. Geiger, Homeopath of Paxton, came in 1896 and stayed until 1903 when he moved to Gilman and then to Kankakee.

Dr. Amos Thatcher Noe, nephew of Dr. O. D. Noe graduated from the Missouri Homeopathic in 1885, came to Bement in 1896, and then later moved to California.

Dr. Charles A. Walton located in Bement in 1898. He built up a good practice and remained until 1903, when he grew a crop of whiskers and started out on the road making one day stands as a "Specialist" traveling out of Chicago.

Dr. Warren Gordon McPherson—We are dealing with the present when we arrive at this well known physician. He was born near Neoga, Illinois, March 30, 1875. He graduated from the Chicago Medical in 1901 and came to Bement where he has been ever since. History



1898-99 BEMENT FOOTBALL TEAM

Reading from left to right—Front row: Carl Thompson, James Lamb.
2nd row: Millard Brown, James Sine, Charles McGaffey, Douglas Sine, Ray Moore.
3rd row: Henry Scott, Charles Ball, St. Clair Vance.
4th row: Willard Bower.

must say that he has been successful, medically and financially, being a farm owner and a very busy doctor.

Dr. McPherson married Miss Lula Delp, who died of heart disease in 1912, leaving one daughter, Helen. In 1914, he married Mrs. Grace Rothmeyer, who died in 1921 of tuberculosis. In 1923 he married Miss Ethel Rose of Bement, and a son and a daughter have been born to this union. The doctor belongs to the County, State and American Medical Associations, and during World War I served on the Exemption Board with Allen F. Moore and Carl S. Reed. He succeeded Dr. Vance as Wabash Surgeon at Bement. The doctor has served many times on the school board of Bement, and has been a regular follower of the high school

teams in defeat or victory . . .

Dr. Albert Leroy Ward was born in Missouri in 1870., moving to LeRoy, Illinois when a small boy. He came to Bement in 1903 from Milmine. He was of slight build but was a hustler and successful in his business. In 1911, he invested his money in the Wabash Life Insurance Company of Danville, became the medical director, but it proved a failure. He moved to Decatur where he died of typhoid fever in 1917 at the age of forty-seven.

Dr. Alva G. Foster, a Christian minister graduated in medicine at the P. & S. of St. Louis, when thirty-five. He located here in 1903, but soon moved to Decatur, where he advertised a cure for the liquor habit. He was still in Decatur in 1915, but there the trail ends . . .

Dr. Harvey Marshall Vance, a native of Bement practiced here only a few months in 1915 when he took care of Dr. McPherson's practice. He was born in 1878, son of Dr. N. N. Vance. He lived in the west, but was buried at Bement in 1918 after his death from influenza.

Dr. Weldon Kilton came to Bement after his graduation at the Bennett Medical School, Chicago, 1907. He soon moved to Harvel, Illinois, where he remained for a number of years and later moved to Sullivan.

Dr. Albert Field was born in



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Willis Carter, Engineer—Roy Carter with team—Ira Arthur at the blower—Edgar Carter, feeder.

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Canada in 1870, graduated in Chicago in 1904, and on Feb. 1, 1913, came to Bement as a partner of Dr. Ward. He remained until he enlisted in World War I. He settled in Chicago after the war.

Dr. J. O. Baldwin took the office of Dr. Field but did not remain long.

Dr. Henry J. Hollison, a homeopath, graduated from Herring Medical in Chicago in 1906, came to Bement in 1916, and remained until he entered the service. Later he went to California.

Dr. James St. Clair Vance, son of Dr. N. N. Vance was born in Bement in 1882. He graduated at Northwestern in 1910, was in the service at Panama a number of years, but returned in 1917 to be with his sick father. He had his office in the Telephone Building. He was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the County Medical Society and was a popular man among his fellow physicians. After his father died, he again went to Panama, and later to Los Angeles, California.

There was also a Dr. Eddington and his wife, Dr. Murtell M. Eddington, who located in Bement for the practice of medicine, but we don't have the date of arrival or any other information about them. It is thought that they were here around 1912.

Dr. Vigo T. Turley was a native of Indiana, where he was born in 1893. He came to Illinois to study medicine, graduating at Hahnemann in 1918. He came to Bement soon after and stayed until 1929, when he moved to Decatur.

Dr. Warren E. Burgett took over the practice of Dr. Turley in the fall of 1929, coming from

Onarga where he had been for ten years. He graduated at Louisville in 1886, where he practiced for a number of years.

Dr. A. M. Bruner, a native of Topeka, Kansas, attended the University of Illinois for pre-medical course, graduating in 1924. He graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago in 1929, going to the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis for his internship. Following this he was with a clinic at Muskegon, Michigan for one year and then with the U. of I. Health Service in Champaign for one year before coming to Bement, where he opened his office on the 16th of August, 1932. He sold his practice to Dr. Wm. Scott in November of 1946. At the present time he is practicing at Monticello, Ill.

Dr. M. F. Speltz came to Bement and opened an office for the general practice of Osteopathy in May, 1938. Dr. Speltz was born in Minnesota where he graduated from Holy Trinity High School at Rollingstone, Minnesota. He attended the Wi-

nona State Teachers College and the University of Minnesota and taught school for one year before entering the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery where he graduated in 1935. After graduation, he came to Decatur to assist a physician who was temporarily ill, and it was at this time that he became interested in Bement. He came to Bement in 1938, after spending 2½ years on the staff of a Sanatorium in New York.

Dr. William M. Scott, the only active M.D. at this time was a graduate of the Monticello High School. He went to the University of Illinois in Champaign for his pre-medical course and graduated from the Northwestern Medical School in 1938. After serving his internship at the Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, he started his practice in Sullivan, Illinois in 1939. He closed his office in Sullivan during the war when he went into the military service. Upon his release in 1946, he opened his office here in Bement.



Digging a well on old school grounds.
(1894)



A. M. Totten Cutting Wheat about 1898. Left to right are: Dee Jackson, Ezra Fuqua, Earl Totten, A. M. Totten, and Frank Totten on the binder.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Swenson



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PRE-CENTENNIAL KICK OFF

Honor guests at the Kick-off dinner were seven residents of the area who are 85 years of age or older. They were introduced by Charles Strohl and were given a round of applause when they stood in response to the introduction. Six of them are shown in the above picture but unfortunately, Mrs. Harry Eaton, 86, who was seated two or three chairs away, did not get in the picture. In the picture left to right are seated: Mrs. William Schwartz (86), Mr. William Schwartz (84), Mrs. Cynthia Shepherd (87)*, Miss Clara Hyatt (94), Standing—N. P. (Nick) Kelly (90), James Palmer (86), Frank Lefever (86), and Mrs. Sarah Miles Kirkland (84). (*Deceased)

A list of those invited but unable to be present were: Elmer Spear (93), George Jackson (94), Miss Clara Bodman (88), Joseph C. Ford (88), John Sebens (88), Mrs. Mary Fahrnkopf (91), Reuben Adkins (87), Wm. Musson (87), Mrs. Minnie Slagle (87), John Metzger (86), Urban Kotter (86), W. A. Hammond (85), . . . George Tucker, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Edith Stone, L. D. Pitts, and Tom Holden whose ages we do not have.

PRE-CENTENNIAL KICK OFF



Gym decorated for Bement Centennial Kick-Off Dinner April 11, 1955



"Let Me Call You Sweetheart"—A group of sweethearts led by song leader James Raglan and accompanied by Stanley Powell at the Hammond organ. This was just part of the fun at Bement's Big Centennial Kick-Off Dinner.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fisher at Bement's Centennial Kick-off Dinner.

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In the center of the Centennial Seal is a drawing of the Bryant Cottage, now a State Lincoln-Douglas Memorial, and an outline of the monument between Bement and Monticello where Lincoln and Douglas met in 1858 and agreed to confer that evening in the Bryant Cottage to make arrangements for their now famous debates. The hands with their broken chains are symbolic of the theme of the Centennial — "Can the World Exist Half Slave and Half Free."



Mrs. Francis Phillips, winner of the Centennial Seal Contest. In addition to designing the Official Centennial Seal, Mrs. Phillips created the art work and illustrations in this book.

KICK-OFF DINNER

Monday evening April 11, 1955 will not soon be forgotten by the 550 persons who gathered in Bement's spacious new high school gym for the Centennial Kick-Off Dinner.

The setting for the dinner was beautiful. Long banquet tables with red, white, and blue runners the entire length of each table, lighted by old kerosene lamps (90 of them) which were brought out from their hiding places and donated by the owners for use at the dinner, a covered wagon scene painted by Mrs. Harold Wallace at the north end of the gym, and a back drop scene made by the Industrial Arts Class, under the supervision of James Coleman, back of the speaker's stand with the words across the top "With Malice Toward None", and the large replica of the Lincoln-Douglas pyramid with the Centennial-Seal on each panel—these were the major decorations.

It was a festive scene, with most of the diners in centennial attire, the women in charming

gowns and bonnets, some old, some new, but all reflecting the fashions of yesteryear; the bearded men in frock coats, fancy vests and ties of a past era. Add to this the happy, smiling faces, the sparkle and laughter and you have the whole picture. Edgar S. Bodman gave the invocation preceding the dinner.

The delicious three course dinner was served under the direction of Norman Edwards with the members of Bryant Memorial Rebekah Lodge and other volunteer workers assisting. On the menu was shrimp cocktail, relish plate, baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, fresh frozen peas, combination salad, coffee, rolls, butter, apple pie with cheese, nuts and mints.

The speaker's table was decorated with two flower arrangements donated by Mrs. Earl Lincicum, who used red, white and blue petunias in covered wagon containers, one drawn by oxen, the other by plug horses. Beautiful dinner music was provided by Stanley Powell on the Hammond

The Bement Lions Club started the ball rolling towards a Centennial Celebration several years ago when they helped start the Annual Bement Community Reunion on Memorial Day, 1952. The same year they helped make plans with Monticello for annual 4th of July Celebrations to be held in Bement one year and Monticello the next. This was planned so that we would have the 4th of July Celebration during our Centennial Year—1955.

In the spring of 1954, the Lions Club gave a Home-Talent Variety Show (giving two performances in Bement, and two performances in Ivesdale) to raise money for the purpose of a Centennial Celebration in Bement during the year 1955. They raised \$805.44 which they turned over to the Bement Centennial Corporation on Dec. 8, 1954. They also appointed a committee to make a survey for the purposes of underwriting the expense of a centennial. During this drive they secured \$2925 in notes, which they turned over to the Centennial Corporation to be used if necessary.

On October 12, 1954, Lions Club President Carl J. Edwards, called a community meeting to see if the people of Bement wanted to celebrate their 100th birthday. As a result of this meeting and others which followed, the Bement Centennial Board was organized and the final arrangements were made. Our thanks go to the Lion's Club for the boost they gave our Centennial Celebration.

Organ preceding and during the dinner.

Charles Strohl, toastmaster, called the group to order by ringing a bell—the same bell used by Henry C. Booth who served as the first teacher in Bement during the winter term of 1856.

Honor guests at the dinner were men and women of the area who were 85 years old or older, all of whom stood and took a bow when Mr. Strohl introduced them to the crowd. Next came group singings of old songs led by James D. Raglan. Mr. Strohl then read messages of congratulations and best wishes from Gov. Stratton, Vice-president Richard Nixon, and a telegram from President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Mr. Strohl then introduced Clark Plummer, Chairman of the Be-

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ment Centennial Coporation, who extended a hearty welcome to all and expressed thanks for the co-operation received from the people of the community.

Ron Holloway made the presentations of awards to the winners in the Centennial Seal Contest. A \$25 Savings Bond was presented to Mrs. Francis Phillips for designing the Official Centennial Seal. The Harold Barnhart family were winners of the second prize; and Rev. V. J. Liss received third prize.

Mr. Harry E. Slusser spoke on why we are having a Centennial Celebration. Mr. Slusser gave three reasons for celebrating the Centennial: First, to fulfill our obligation to those who have gone before and to the generation that is coming on; Second,



Bement Family Group—Ready for the Bement Centennial is the three-generation Siders family shown here. Senior members are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siders, center; their sons, Ralph R. Jr., left and Dan, right. Others are, from left, Mrs. Ralph Siders Jr., Kent and Steve Siders, sons of the Dan Siders, and Mrs. Dan Siders. Front, Carol and Sue, daughters of the Ralph Siders.



Group at Speakers Table for Kick-Off Dinner



George Wilkinson

to have a lot of fun; Third, to obtain a better place in which to live with a fine community spirit. In closing, Mr. Slusser said: "Let us have all the fun we can—and may it be said that the Bement Community is just a little better because we have lived in it."

Mr. Lew Wilkinson was introduced and explained the mechanics of the Centennial Celebration, with the aid of a large chart showing the various committees and committee chairmen.

Mr. Strohl closed by reminding everyone that these plans are the civic responsibility of everyone, and that it isn't what the Centennial will cost that you must consider, but what it will cost you, if we fail as a community.



Exchanging Centennial recipes at the Kick-Off Dinner were these charming ladies: Mrs. Gail Olsen, wife of the Cerro Gordo Centennial Chairman, at the left; Mrs. Ruth Bell in the center, and Mrs. Margaret Wright, both of Bement.

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BEMENT'S TOWN MEETING

*"Our country is the world—
Our countrymen are all mankind."*

William Lloyd Garrison—1837

Birthdays come to all of us, as individuals, and to our towns, states, and nations. Centennials come only once in a life-time. And every now and then we sigh with relief and shout, "Thank Goodness!"

If Bement's 100th birthday was to have more than passing significance, it needed something in addition to our historical pageant and the customary activities of other mid-Western towns. It should have something distinctive, some theme which would make its mark on contemporary political life, as did the historic debate agreement of Lincoln and Douglas in 1858.

Professor Arnold J. Toynbee, the eminent historian, gave his advice. After telling him Bement's history, I asked him what he thought the people of other countries would be most interested in hearing discussed today. He replied, "Actually, the challenge is the same now as when Lincoln debated Douglas. It is: 'CAN THE WORLD SURVIVE: HALF-SLAVE AND HALF-FREE?'" Only presently it applies to the whole world, and a century ago it was America's problem." He went on to say that, in his opinion, the future of western civilization, depends on our response to the challenge offered by Soviet leaders who have enslaved their own and other peoples. He said the ideas of various thinkers on how to solve this dilemma would certainly be helpful.

At first, it seemed impossible to persuade important men to journey to our little town. I mailed 500 invitations and received not one single acceptance. Then I started visiting various friends personally and explaining to them our desire to have lively healthy discussions in Bement. The subject appealed to some. Adlai Stevenson said it is the most important topic of the day. Others were moved to come by their regard for Lincoln, America's great international saint. They wished to visit his part of the country.

Finally, our own Senator Paul Douglas agreed to start our Town Meetings on May 30, saying:

"Carleton, this must be 'an adventure in faith'." Illness prevented his coming, and our neighbor, Charles B. Shuman, head of the American Farm Bureau Federation, substituted. Then, came Senator Alexander Wiley, Republican head of the Foreign Relations Committee, Wendell Wilkie's son, Philip, Norman Thomas, Senator Ralph Flanders of Vermont, and Clark M. Eichelberger, executive director of the American Association for the United Nations.

In the fall Mrs. Theodore S. Chapman, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, head of eleven million women, speaks August 28th. The Ambassador of India, His Excellency G. L. Mehta, talks on Labor Day, September 5th, and pre-

BY CARLETON SMITH

cine so successfully there) Ambassador Jose Mora of Uruguay, Historian A. L. Rowse of Oxford University in England, former Postmaster General James Farley, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Arthur S. Fleming, Civil Defense Administrator and Assistant to President Eisenhower, former Presidents Herbert Hoover and Harry Truman, Adlai E. Stevenson, and Carl Sandburg. Not all of them will finally come, but our Town Meetings have caught on. Thanks to radio and foreign broadcasts, they have been heard by an estimated audience of over forty million. They have been discussed at President Eisenhower's press conference in The White House.

A Boston newspaper editorialized: "Shots fired in Bement may well be heard around the world." Our purpose has been, also, to educate ourselves, to help us



Mr. Charles Shuman, first of the guest speakers at Bement's Centennial Town Meetings. Mr. Schuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation came to Bement on Memorial Day and opened our series of Town Meetings to discuss the general topic—"Can Mankind Endure Half Slave and Half Free?" Also shown on the stage are "Mr. and Mrs. Bement" (Mrs. W. A. Hammond and Frank Totten) and the "Man and Woman of the Year" (Miss Isabelle Houston and H. E. Slusser.) Others are: George Vance Jr., William W. Redman, R. N. Holloway, James Raglan (master of ceremonies,) and Clark Plummer (Chairman of Centennial Board of Directors.) Seated in the back are a group of high school girls who sang several selections during the program.

sents the views of Prime Minister Nehru. Senator Everett Dirksen has chosen Sunday, September 11th, and we have acceptances from Paul Martin, Minister of Health and National Welfare in Canada, (who handled Salk vac-

make up our own minds as to what should be done about pressing problems of the day.

Jet propulsion and nuclear fission have made us neighbors to all peoples. At our meeting with Senator Wiley, while introducing

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him, I was startled to see a Nepalese student, a young man from the foot-hills of the Himalayas, wander towards the platform with a camera. We have since had visitors from towns as remote as Hong Kong, Salisbury, England; Djakarta, Indonesia; and Copenhagen, Denmark.

This is but one more evidence that today, and even more during Bement's second century, any happening anywhere in the globe may have profound and disturbing—perhaps even fatal—effects on our lives here in Central Illinois.

We want to prepare ourselves to make the response our time demands. We do not want to be enslaved either through ignorance or inadvertance or our own negligence or apathy.

Perhaps, as a result of our Centennial Town Meetings, the proposal for debates in the Lincoln-Douglas tradition will win the approval of the 1956 Presidential candidates. Then, the clash of their ideas will help clarify the issues. We shall all know more about them and their thinking.

Whether this happens or not, our guest speakers in Bement have broadened our horizons, and helped us to realize that peace can be achieved only by having reverence for other peoples' way of life. If men could only understand one another, they would neither idolize nor hate.



MEMORIAL DAY—1955

Special recognition was given to Dr. J. G. Bauer, who has served as a dentist in Bement since 1905. (50 years). The above picture was taken shortly after he came to Bement. The patient is Ray Siders.



MEMORIAL DAY—1955

From left to right: Mr. Edward Glennon (former Bementonian and now president of the American Feed Manufacturing Association) who introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Charles Shuman (president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.) Next to Mr. Shuman is Clark Plummer (Centennial Chairman) and James Raglan (master of ceremonies for Memorial Day Reunion) is at the extreme right.

MEMORIAL DAY— COMMUNITY REUNION

Bright sunny weather, a crowd of 1,500, an outstanding guest speaker, an excellent program and a friendly, capable master of ceremonies in the person of James Raglan, combined to make Bement's fourth Community Reunion one to be long remembered. Many of those in attendance were in Centennial costumes which made this reunion different from the three preceeding it and it was a reminder to all of our big Centennial Celebration to follow.

The High School Band presented a concert, Stanley Powell furnished music on the Hammond organ, and George Vance Jr. sang the "Star Spangled Banner" to open the program. Reigning as Mr. and Mrs. Bement were Frank Totten and Mrs. Wilbur Hammond who were introduced by Chairman Raglan. Both responded with interesting personal recollections and experiences. Honored as "Man and Woman of the Year" were Harry E. Slusser and Miss Isabelle Houston, who were chosen for the fine services they have rendered to the Bement Community. Dr. J. G. Bauer, practicing dentist in Bement since May 1905 was given special recognition during the program for



Neighbors for 66 years. Close friends and neighbors since 1889, these men are shown at the Memorial Day Reunion, May 30, 1955. They are, from left, Ray Siders, Edgar Bodman, a descendant of a village founder, and Carl Thompson, who has served as village clerk for 33 years.



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Bement—"Fats and Leans" ready for baseball game—July 4, 1898. From the left: Mart Ellers, Harvey Vance, Lew Alvord, Jim Malone, C. A. Burks, J. Otie Evans, Wm. Booker, Riggs, W. A. Hammond, J. F. Sprague, W. W. Body, unknown, James Lancaster, unknown, H. E. Shaw, Geo. Oldridge, unknown, Ab Harshbarger, Chas. Shook, and Chas. Baker standing at the rear.



J. T. MOORE
One time Mayor of Bement, and member of School Board for several years.



Mr. Frank Totten and Mrs. W. A. Hammond—Mr. and Mrs. Bement.

his fifty year's service. The guest speaker was Charles Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who spoke on the Centennial Theme—"Can Mankind Endure Half Slave and Half Free?" Mr. Shuman was introduced by a former Bementonian, Edward Glennon, president of the American Feed Manufacturing Association, who now lives in Elmhurst, Illinois. Miss Rachel Day closed the program by singing "God Bless America."



Senator Alexander Wiley, Wisconsin, senior Republican of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, demonstrates his ability to rise to the occasion by donning a knitted wool shawl on Sunday afternoon, June 5, 1955 while being photographed with several pioneer costumed women and bearded men. In the picture with Bement's distinguished visitor and Town Meeting speaker are, left to right: R. N. Holloway, John Monaghan who became 80 years old on the following day, Mrs. Ralph Dunaway, Miss Edna Moore, Senator Wiley, Mrs. Arbie Hawver, Mrs. J. H. Malkus, and Mrs. Ralph Moery Sr.



Mr. Philip Wilkie, only son of Wendell Wilkie, shown as he addressed the Centennial Town Meeting on June 19, 1955. Also shown from the left in the background are: Carleton Smith, R. N. Holloway, and Bryan Wilson.



June 19, 1955—Following his talk at Bement's Town Meeting, Mr. Philip Wilkie poses with a group of Bement men. From the left they are: William W. Redman, W. G. (Cotton) Porter, Charles Strohl, John Barnes, Mr. Wilkie, E. A. Stout, and Arbie Hawver.

STAUBER'S

"HATS OFF TO BEMENT"

A Centennial is more than a time for counting the past; it is also the time for measuring the future.

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June 26, 1955—Mr. Norman Thomas, leader of the Socialist party, is shown following his talk at Bement's Centennial Town Meeting with a group of Bement people. From the left they are: Mrs. Roy B. Jones, Carleton Smith, Miss Rachel Day, Mr. Thomas, H. E. Slusser, and R. N. Holloway.



A picnic lunch was served at the Forest Preserve Park for Senator Flanders prior to his address at the 4th of July-Bement Centennial Town Meeting. Shown at the left is Miss Els Rampel of Jakarta, Java, (Capital of Indonesia.) She is a representative of the largest news agency in Indonesia,

visiting in this country to study the ways of democracy. Next to her is Carleton Smith, Director of the National Arts Foundation, Senator Ralph Flanders of Vermont, and Lew Wilkinson, President of the State Bank of Bement.

BEMENT CELEBRATES 100TH FOURTH OF JULY

Bement's 100th Fourth of July was a day which will be long remembered by its citizens and many visitors from various cities in Illinois as well as from other States and Countries. At 1 p.m. there was a picnic dinner at the park, followed by the "Town Meeting" with Senator Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont as the guest speaker.

At the close of the "Town

Meeting," most of those present at the park went to the High School to attend the opening of the National Arts Foundation Art Museum. Senator Flanders and his wife cut the ribbon marking the formal opening and later received the guests at a tea given by the Reception Committee. In the early evening the crowd gathered in the park for the fireworks display that took place at sundown. There was an estimated crowd of between 8 and 10 thousand

and people at the park for the fireworks display. Following this display, which was one of the best seen in Bement, a free dance, sponsored by the Brothers of the Brush, was held in the pavilion. The July 4th celebration was the fourth such joint celebration sponsored by the Monticello Chamber of Commerce and the Bement Business Men.



Senator Ralph Flanders of Vermont, guest speaker at Bement Town Meeting—July 4, 1955.



Mr. Clark M. Eichelberger, executive director of the American Association for the United Nations. Mr. Eichelberger is scheduled to speak at Bement's Town Meeting, July 17, 1955.



His Excellency, G. L. Mehta, Ambassador of India to the United States, who is scheduled to speak in Bement on Labor Day, September 5, 1955, presenting the views of Prime Minister Nehru.



Mrs. Theodore S. Chapman, President General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Chapman will speak in Bement on August 28, 1955, following the Centennial celebration. This will be part of our fall series of Town Meetings.

BEMENT TO REVIVE CALITHUMPIAN PARADE

We can't tell you when the first one was staged in Bement, nor the last, but a Calithumpian Parade was an established affair in the 1880's (perhaps earlier for the first Fourth of July celebration was held here in 1861 or 1862) and through the 1890's. On July 4, 1887, the Calithumpian Parade was the "best ever held in Bement" according to the July 9 issue of the Bement Gazette.

"Fizz, Bang, Boom, is the way the Fourth was celebrated here in good old fashioned style. The boys commenced in the morning at one o'clock by ringing the bells and firing the anvils. The crowd commenced to come in very early and by eight o'clock the streets were filled. At ten the Calithumpian Parade started out." Yes, a Calithumpian Parade was a loud, noisy, boisterous parade and fun was had by all.

And now Bement is to have another Calithumpian Parade. A Gigantic, Spectacular Parade with Bands, Floats, Ox Teams, Horses, and even a Calliope. The date—Monday, August 1, 1955.



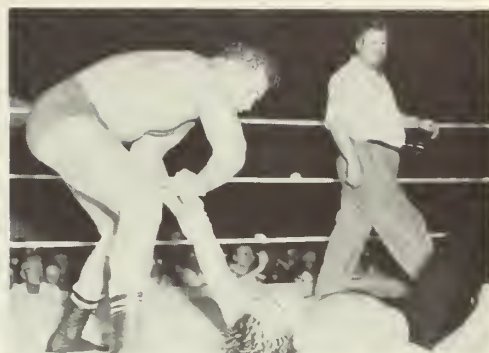
Square Dances were a featured attraction during Bement's Centennial, being sponsored by the Brothers of the Brush.



July 7, 1955—Mrs. Ruth Patterson (Bement Postmaster) cancels the first letters with the special cancellation stamp obtained by the Centennial Corporation with special permission from the U. S. Post Office Department. The stamp reads: "Bement Centennial, July 31-August 6, 1855-1955." Many collectors have sent mail to Bement to have it cancelled with this special Centennial stamp.



The Brothers of the Brush went all out to make the Bement Centennial one of the best! Early in the summer they sponsored a big-time wrestling match in Bement. On the 4th of July they sponsored a Free Dance at the park in connection with the Town Meeting and Free Display of Fireworks held that day. Their latest activity has been the purchase of a 1000 lb. steer which will be given away at a drawing at the close of the Centennial.



Big-Time Wrestling Wows Bement. As a feature of the Bement Centennial program, eight grunt and groan members of the "rasslin" fraternity drew 2000 roaring spectators to the Bement High School Gym for an exhibition of the noble art. The feature bout was between Roy McClarity (substituting for Yukon Eric who was suspended just before the fight) and Mighty Atlas. The wrestling match was sponsored by the Brothers of the Brush.



BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

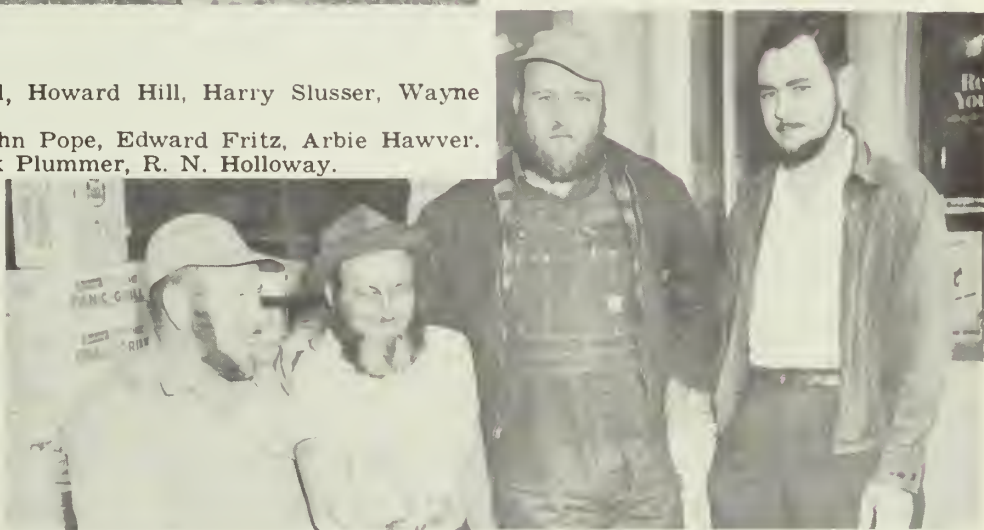
Standing from left to right: Keith Bell, Howard Hill, Harry Slusser, Wayne Redman.

Seated—first row from left to right: John Pope, Edward Fritz, Arbie Hawver.

Seated 2nd row from left to right: Clark Plummer, R. N. Holloway.



June 16, 1955—Wrestler Don de Cortes becomes an honorary member of the Brothers of the Brush just prior to the Big-Time Wrestling match. Henry Larson is on the left and John Pope is shown on the right pinning on the button.



BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH (On a busy morning in town)

From left to right: John Glennon, Earl S. Folk, Ralph Moery Jr., Richard (Dick) Glennon.

SISTERS OF THE SWISH "KITCHEN BAND"



The Sisters of the Swish became a very active group before and during the Bement Centennial. They held several pot-luck suppers, a box social, and a style show in connection with the Woman's Clubs of Bement. They also formed a "Kitchen Band" and made caravans to other nearby towns in costume.

On the left: Mrs. Lily Peck Sprague. On the right: Mrs. Nora Bigham Taylor. When they worked at Etta Smith's Millinery Store in Bement.



Sisters of the Swish—"Tea Time" or "Coffee Break?" From the left—Mrs. H E. Slusser, Mrs. Margaret Marker, Mrs. Ray Siders, Mrs. Rose Knapp, and Mrs. Wyman Patterson.

Mrs. H. E. Slusser



Miss Rachel Day



SISTERS OF THE SWISH — BOX SOCIAL

CENTENNIAL QUEEN CONTEST

A meeting of candidates nominated for queen of the Bement Centennial was held Wednesday, July 6th, and 48 girls enthusiastically agreed to enter the contest. They are as follows: Mary Kay Barber, Shirley Lindstrom, Frances Dick, Pearl Comerford, Elfrie Shepherd, Anna Mary Wrench, Ann Skagenberg, Marlene Bowyer, Carol Sue Hinton, Challice Larson, Jeanabelle Lash, Phyllis Shumard, Margaret Zoch, Nancy Allison, Ann Ard, Shirley Shonkwiler, Betty Comerford, Audine Moery, Shirley Hinton, Eilene Foran, Carleen McCullough, Margaret Wright, Elaine Foster, Jo Ann Bentley, Judy Redman, Sharon Ann Morton, Lois Cantrell, Leona Hudson, Frances Pierce, Marilyn Smith, Geneva Gulliford, Betty Lincicum, Carrie Dobson, Barbara Warner, Janet McCollum, Nancy McCollum, Martha Postlewait, Sue Hannon, Rachel Day, Jacque Zindars, Irene Alexander, Dorothy Meece, Ellen Wiggins, Carole Kirwan, Patricia Doyle, Karen Jo Lux, Evelyn White and Sonja Lawson.

To be Queen, or one of her Princesses in the Court of Honor, is a distinction never to be forgotten. The winners will be guests of honor at all major Centennial functions; they will take part in the beautiful Queen Coronation Ceremony and be presented nightly at Bement's historical spectacle, "Our Prairie Heritage." In addition to the honors connected with being chosen Queen or one of her Princesses many wonderful prizes are being awarded. First prize is a glamorous all expense paid nine day vacation trip to New York for the Queen and a companion; also a matched set of luggage. The next six girls who have the most votes will receive valuable prizes also. The Queen contest will close at 6 P.M. July 28, 1955.

Quote from history written by Emma Piatt—"Bement is 'Booming' just now, and persons desiring to locate in a thriving, energetic place cannot find a better one of its size in Central Illinois."

F. E. Bryant was a cousin of William Cullen Bryant and S. F. Smith, author of "America." Mr. F. E. Bryant represented Schuy-



CENTENNIAL QUEEN COMMITTEE

Seated from the left: Miss Edna Loftus, Mrs. Lynn Rainey, Mrs. Edna Hammond, and Mrs. Florence Byerline.

Standing from the left: Charles Strayer, E. A. Stout (Chairman), Mrs. Selby Clark, and Mrs. Lew Wilkinson.



Mayor Lynn Crook and Miss Edna Loftus sign up girls for the Bement Centennial Queen Contest.



Bement area girls waiting to sign up for the Centennial Queen Contest.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORY OF
MY PARENTS

JOHN WESLEY SMITH
and
SARAH ANN LAMAR SMITH
Who came to Bement in 1866

By CHARLES WESLEY SMITH - 1876

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MY PARENTS

MR. AND MRS. J. T. MOORE,
MY SISTER NINA AND
MY BROTHERS RAY, ROY AND
VIVIAN MOORE

EDNA L. MOORE


**IN MEMORY OF MY
FATHER AND MOTHER**

CHARLEY E. HOFFHEINS
(1871-1952)

ONA MARKWELL HOFFHEINS
(1880-1955)

Lifelong Residents of the Bement Community

WILBUR L. HOFFHEINS



In Memorial

In Memory of My
FATHER AND MOTHER

MR. and MRS. SAMUEL H. HOFFHEINS

Pioneer Residents of the Bement Community

GLADYS HOFFHEINS JONES

(Mrs. Ron B. Jones)

IN MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS LAMB

and

MR. AND MRS. JAMES BRANDENBURG

EARLY PIONEERS OF THIS VICINITY

MR. and MRS. LESTER BRANDENBURG

National Arts Foundation Museum

"MAN'S HERITAGE IN THE ARTS"

By CARLETON SMITH

"For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men and their story is not graven only on stone over their native earth but lives on far away without visible symbol woven into the stuff of other men's lives."

—Pericles.

Each of us spend but a few years on this planet. The lasting record of what we feel and think and dream and believe is art. And through the ages, art which carries a message to succeeding generations endures.

Nothing will be remembered of Bement, as nothing is remembered of ancient Athens or Thebes, except what is carved in stone or marble, written on the pages of a book, or painted on canvas here. Nothing will be known of the United States ten thousand years from now except what inspired creative spirits catch from the ever-vanishing present and put into lasting art.



"In Kerry" by Jack B. Yeats (Ireland's greatest painter). This painting won prizes in England and France.

Each civilization finds its own means of telling its story. What is remembered is what has significance for generations yet unborn. Therefore, the Bible is a work of art. Therefore, the timeless thoughts in Shakespeare's plays and sonnets describe actual happenings in Bement, if not in your own life, in your neighbors next door. We are all brothers.

Open Daily (including Sunday) through August 15th from 2 to 5 p.m.
Also open on Monday and Saturday evening from 8 to 9 p.m.
Special Hours during Centennial Week (July 31 through August 6)
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Be sure to visit this exhibit. It is one chance in a life-time to see such great historical documents and beautiful works of art. (Bement High School)



Carleton Smith, left, shows Gov. and Mrs. Stratton Sir Jacob Epstein's latest portrait bust, "Juleen," which is being displayed for the first time anywhere in the world at the art exhibit in Bement. The world famous sculptor sent the bust directly from London to Bement. Gov. and Mrs. Stratton came to Bement on July 1st for a preview of the art exhibit and later attended a tea in their honor at the Forest Preserve Park.

All men have far more in common than their differences. "The greatest man in the world," according to Albert Schweitzer, himself called the 'thirteenth disciple,' "lives in a small town and spends his days helping others. He has true reverence for others' lives. He listens to how they say they would like to express themselves and helps them to do as they want, not as he thinks is best for them."

In our hurried, cluttered life, few of us take time to reflect, to ponder, to be alone with ourselves. In our efforts to make the best use of our good earth—the mother who never dies, as the Maori say—and to acquire material goods for ourselves and our children, most of us find little time for expressing ourselves in art. Yet Churchill paints as a pastime. So does Eisenhower. Truman plays the piano. Should not each of us have painting or sculpture or music or writing as

well as golf or bridge for a hobby?

The National Arts Foundation museum in Bement affords an opportunity for you and successive generations of our children to find beauty in art. It has outstanding samples of man's heritage in art. And, perhaps, seeing them will give you the urge to try your hand at expressing yourself in one art or another—in any event, to find an absorbing new pastime for your spare hours.

Art, obviously, is not created for experts. It comes from and exists for all men.

—O—

The National Arts Foundation is a non-profit educational organization incorporated in New York in 1947 with offices at 60 Broadway, New York. It encourages creation, interpretation, and appreciation of the arts, and exchange of arts and understanding between all peoples.



Senator and Mrs. Ralph E. Flanders of Vermont, officially opened the National Arts Foundation exhibit at Bement on Monday, July 4, 1955. Mrs. Flanders cut the ribbon at the entrance to the display while many people looked on.

It sponsors many individual projects, of which the present exhibition is one. It brought to Bement paintings by Tinteretto, Rouault, Tamayo, Diego Rivera, and outstanding contemporary American and Cuban painters, etchings by Rembrandt, Goya, and Durer, drawings by Matisse and Diego Rivera, samples of the ancient art of the Mayas, stone carvings of the Eskimos, sculpture from the Greeks through Henry Moore, plates by Picasso, wood sculpture from Oberammergau, glass from Sweden, musical manuscripts of Mozart, Puccini, Sibelius, Berlioz, Richard Strauss, John Alden Carpenter, Benjamin Britten, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Sir Jacob Epstein's latest portrait bust, "Julien" is exhibited here for the first time. There is an unique piece by Henry Moore. Georges Rouault, France's greatest living painter, is represented by one of his latest works, "Autumn Evening," never before seen in America.

The Library of Congress has sent five important historical documents, including the copy of the Gettysburg address Lincoln held when he spoke. The College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois has loaned twelve of the most important works in its collection. Honorable and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss

have sent Pennell's lithographs of The Building of the Panama Canal. Mrs. Charles Walgreen loaned us her famous Lincoln collection, including the original death mask.

There are good samples of man's heritage in the arts from 4000 B.C. A few will remain in

Bement's High School to inspire our children and nourish the good life in Bement.



Tom Chatham, representative of John B. Rogers Co., who staged and directed the Dramatic Spectacle — "Our Prairie Heritage." Mr. Chatham is shown here with part of the Walgreen Lincoln Collection at the National Arts Foundation Museum, held in connection with the Bement Centennial Program.



Following the formal opening of the museum, Senator and Mrs. Flanders and a group of Bement people received the many guests as they were served at a tea given by the Hospitality Committee.



Famous Etching "The Caprices" by Goya. Literal Translation—"Who knows more, student or teacher."



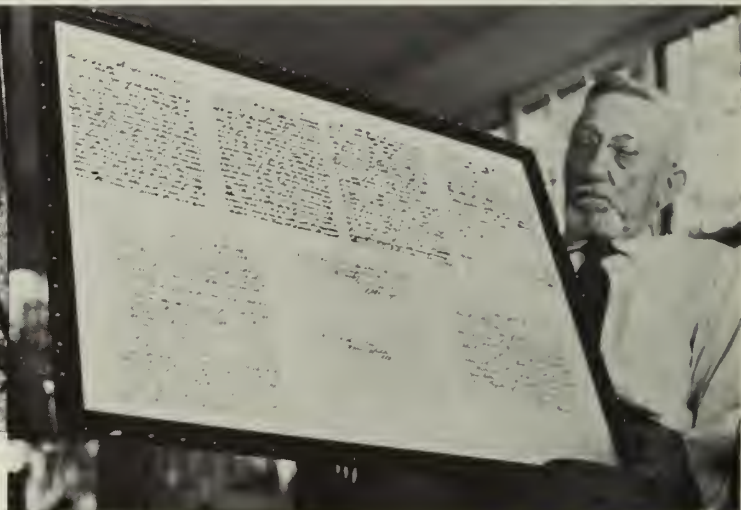
Carleton Smith with the painting "Autumn Evening" by Georges Rouault, France's greatest living painter. This is one of his latest works and has never been shown before in America.



Amusing Etching — "Man With High Fur Cap" — by Rembrandt (about 1631).



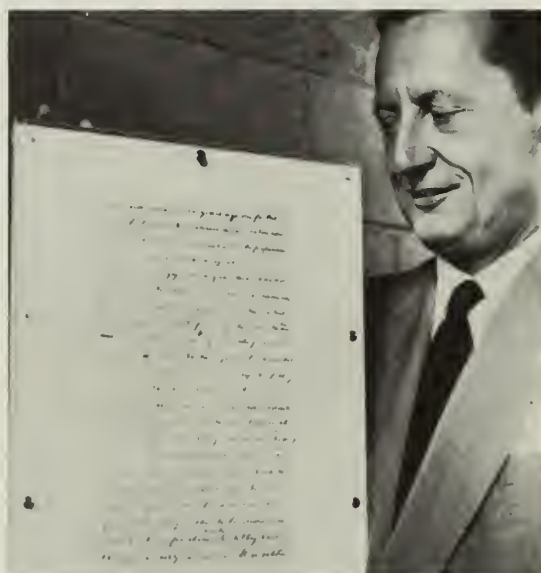
From the left—Miss Emily Hammond, Mrs. W. A. Hammond, and Mrs. J. L. Bodman viewing the wood carving "Beethoven" carved from a tree trunk by Hans Heinzeller of Oberammergau, Germany, the home of the Passion Play.



John Barnes with the letters of Lincoln and Douglas that focus historical attention upon Bement.



Etching—by Rembrandt. "Travelling Musicians"



Carleton Smith with the copy of the Gettysburg address that Lincoln held while he spoke. (Loaned by the Library of Congress for the exhibit in Bement.)



Archaic Statue from Cyprus. (Approx. 4000 B. C.)

The Temperance Movement

In the pioneer days of Piatt County, the use of alcoholic liquors, both as a medicine and as a beverage, was very common. While some drank to excess, nearly everyone drank moderately. In those days drinking was not considered an evil only so far as it was taken in excess. This sentiment prevailed not because the people were naturally bad or immoral, but because the effects of alcohol were not known or understood. There have been numerous temperance organizations and temperance movements during the history of this community.



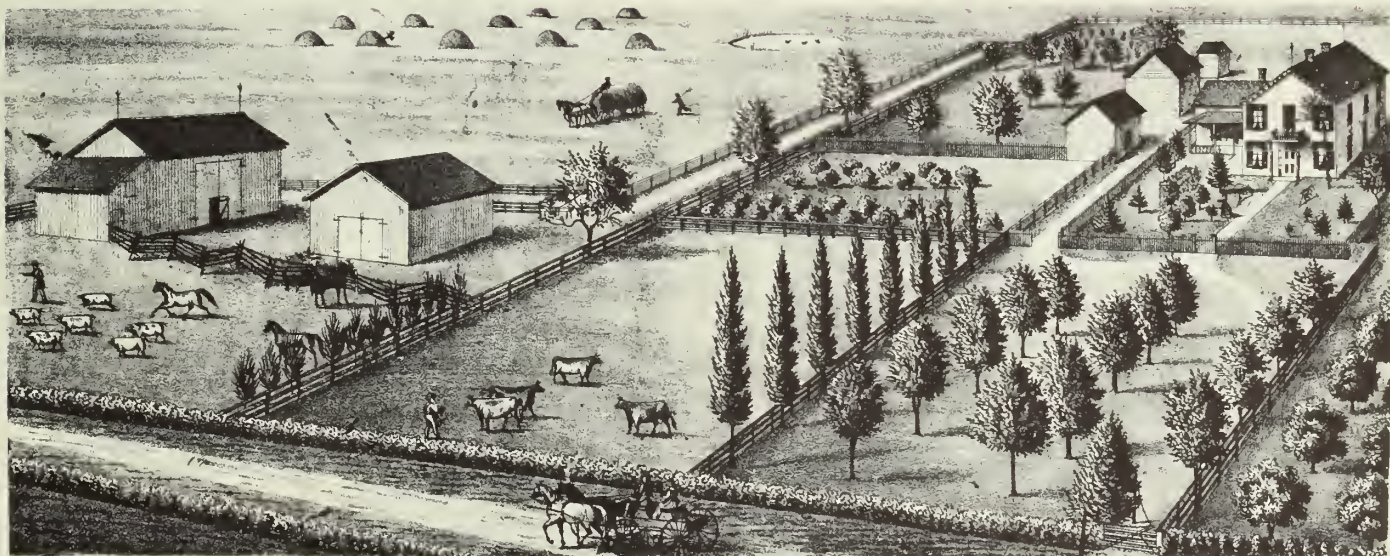
CEN 79

Mr. and Mrs. Arbie Hawver



CEN 73

Richard (Dick) Skagenberg, Centennial Photographer.



FARM RESIDENCE OF JOHN HEATH, WILLOW BRANCH TOWNSHIP, PIATT CO., ILLINOIS.

Calendar of Events

BEMENT'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

July 31 - August 6

1955

SUNDAY, JULY 31—

FREEDOM OF RELIGION DAY

Morning—Centennial Homecoming at the church of your choice.

Afternoon—View the famed National Arts Foundation Museum of fine arts and the Walgreen Lincoln collection at High School; see the Antique Displays in downtown windows; visit the historic Bryant Cottage, Lincoln-Douglas State Memorial.

3:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of National Arts Foundation Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

4:00 P.M.—Carillonic chimes concert from the Methodist Church. Chimes will also be played in a twilight concert as a prelude to the evening service.

8:00 P.M.—Observation of Freedom of Religion Day at Pageant site. Dr. Harold Ford Carr, Denver, Colo., guest speaker. 60 voice robed choir from all churches in Bement.

rides and attractions. A Carnival of Fun all week.

3:00 P.M.—Gigantic Callithumpian Parade featuring marching bands, old time calliope, spectacular floats. (Callithumpian Parades were once traditional with Bement pioneers.)

4:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Fine Arts Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

7:15 P.M.—Pre-pageant concert by famed Ansar Shrine Band in tribute to Director Roy B. Jones of Bement for his 30 years of service to the band.

8:15 P.M.—Grand premiere performance of the Pageant Spectacle OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE. The exciting and dramatic history of our town told with a cast of 250 actors on mammoth outdoor stage. Introduction of Queen candidates. Thrilling fireworks display.

10:00 P.M.—Colorful Coronation Ball at beautiful new high school gym, with music by Wayne Karr and his orchestra for your dancing and listening pleasure. See the Coronation of the Centennial Queen and the Centennial Grand March at 10:45 P.M.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1—

CALLITHUMPIAN PARADE DAY

9:00 A.M.—Official opening of Centennial. Church bells and chimes ring; sirens blow; cannonade — a callithumpian salute to Bement on its 100th year.

10:00 A.M.—Registration of all guests and visitors at Centennial Headquarters.

11:00 A.M.—Opening of gay Centennial Midway, featuring Mound City Shows with latest

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2— OLD SETTLERS PICNIC

10:00 A.M.—Registration of all old settlers and guests at Centennial Headquarters.

11:00 A.M.—Conducted tour of National Arts Museum.

NOON—Old Settlers Picnic Basket Dinner at Bement Forest Preserve Park.

1:30 P.M.—Horse show by Trail Blazer's Riding Club.

2:00 - 4:00 P.M.—Old Settlers Olympics, featuring hog calling, horseshoe pitching, husband calling and old fiddlers' contests. PRIZES and LOTS OF FUN!

5:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Museum of Fine Arts and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

8:30 P.M.—Second performance of OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE. A thrilling accolade of Bement's 100 year history told in Song, Dance and Narration. Grand Pageant Finale of mammoth fireworks display.

10:00 P.M.—Square dancing in the moonlight at grade school court.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

ILLINOIS DAY

10:00 A.M.—Registration of all guests at Centennial Headquarters.

1:00 P.M.—Formal Dedication of the Restoration of the Historic Bryant Cottage State Memorial. Shrine of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.

1:30 P.M.—Basket dinner at Bement Forest Preserve Park. Illinois state officials as honored guests.

2:30 P.M.—Address by distinguished speaker.

3:30 P.M.—Style Show by the Sisters of the Swish.

7:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Fine Arts Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

8:15 P.M.—OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE with a cast of 250 which covers hundreds of years of history — from the early Indians to the Atom Bomb.

10:00 P.M.—Square dancing under the stars.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4—

YOUNG AMERICA DAY

10:00 A.M.—Centennial registration at headquarters.

1:30 P.M.—Kiddies Parade. The small fry take over for a parade of their own. Prizes for all participants.

2:30 P.M.—Kiddie Kontests.

3:30 P.M.—Free show for the kids by Ortheldo, the Magician.

7:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Fine Arts Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

8:15 P.M.—OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE, a pageant spectacle telling the Bement Story.

10:00 P.M.—Grab your partner for a square dance!!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5—

AGRICULTURE DAY

A preview of the New in agriculture in the setting of the Old Time County Fair.

9:00 A.M.—Registration of farm guests and visitors at Centennial Headquarters. Visit the Agriculture Tent. See the outstanding agricultural displays, some seen for the first time east of the Mississippi River. Display of agriculture implements — old and new — throughout entire Centennial Week.

2:30 P.M.—Address by distinguished speaker representing agriculture.

4:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Fine Arts Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

7:15 P.M.—Raffle drawing at Pageant Site for 1000 pound steer conducted by Brothers of the Brush.

8:15 P.M.—Another performance of the Historical Spectacle OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE.

10:00 P.M.—Dance with a gal with a hole in her stocking!!!!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6—

AMERICAN FREEDOM DAY

Old fashioned patriotism — just as good today as it was 100 years ago.

10:00 A.M. — Centennial registration at headquarters.

2:00 P.M.—American Freedom Parade, featuring marching bands, drum and bugle corps, and crack drill teams.

3:00 P.M.—Distinguished speaker.

4:00 P.M.—Conducted tour of Fine Arts Museum and Walgreen Lincoln collection.

7:15 P.M.—Beard Shaving contest conducted by Remington Electric Shavers. Final judging in Beard Contest and Kangaroo Kourt session. Fun and frolic with the Brothers of the Brush!!

8:30 P.M.—Final performance of OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE with a cast of 250 telling in song and story the gay and colorful history of Bement's 100 years. Thrilling fireworks display as a grand finale. See Bement's Centennial Seal as a sensational set piece!!

10:00 P.M.—Free square dancing at the grade school court. Grand Finale to Bement's 100th Birthday Celebration.

OUR PRAIRIE HERITAGE

STAGED AND DIRECTED BY TOM CHATHAM

A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION

SPECTACLE DIVISION—WALTER SLATER

Cast—Roy B. Jones

Scenario and Title—Lew Wilkinson

Scenario Secretary—Carleton Wildman

Costumes and Make-Up—Isabelle Houston

Properties—Ernest McCullough

Construction—George Wilkinson

Spectacle Music—Stanley Powell

Building and Grounds—A. E. Bodman

The CENTENNIAL CHOIR directed by Mrs. Keith Bell

Combined High and Grade School Bands directed by Joe Beardon

NARRATORS

EVELYN FISHER

RON HOLLOWAY

JAMES RAGLAN

REV. CLYDE WEST

HELEN WEST

SCENE No. 1—PROLOGUE

The CENTENNIAL QUEEN and her Court of Honor will appear every night in a spectacular array of costumes, music and pageantry.

The CENTENNIAL QUEEN and her Court have been selected from the following: Mary Kay Barber, Shirley Lindstrom, Frances Dick, Pearl Comerford, Elfriede Shepherd, Anna Mary Wrench, Ann Skagenberg, Marlene Bowyer, Carol Sue Hinton, Challice Larson, Jeanabelle Lash, Phyllis Shumard, Margaret Zoch, Nancy Allison, Ann Ard, Shirley Shonkwiler, Betty Comerford, Audine Moery, Shirley Hinton, Eilene Foran, Carleen McCullough, Margaret Wright, Elaine Foster, Jo Ann Bentley, Judy Redman, Sharon Ann Morton, Lois Cantrell, Leona Hudson, Frances Pierce, Marilyn Smith, Geneva Gulliford, Betty Lincicum, Carrie Dobson, Barbara Warner, Janet McCollum, Nancy McCollum, Martha Postlewait, Sue Hannon, Rachel Day, Jacque Zindar, Irene Alexander, Dorothy Meece, Ellen Wiggins, Carole Kirwan, Patricia Rae Doyle, Karen Jo Lux, Evelyn White.

THE MOUNTED GUARD OF HONOR

Herman Wood, Carl Canull, Ross Manning, Robert Hettinger, Clifford Willis, Donald W. Hall, Bud Barnhart, Irvin Beckhart, Archie Rogers, Loren Rogers, Larry Rogers, Dale Norfleet, Carl Eads, Melford Nelson, Billy Joe Jordan, William Jordan, Bob Morgan, Paul Hannon, Bob Wood, Jim Beckhart, BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS.

SCENE No. 2—THE FIRST AMERICANS

Near here, on the trail between the Sangamon and Kaskaskia rivers, the Pottawatomies and the Kickapoos pitched their tepees. It was in this land of theirs, over a hundred years ago, they hunted the wild turkey, the elk and deer, antelope and buffalo. The peace pipe or Calumet is used to seal the friendship of visiting kinsmen.

CAST: INDIANS

Mrs. Alice Hendrix, Mr. and Mrs. John Warehime, Mr. and

Mrs. Stanley Foley, Mr. and Mrs. Don Haws & sons, Denny, Larry, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Totten, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hendrix, Judy and Johnny Bill, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Hendrix, Glo Ann and Gary, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Durbin, Mrs. Gertrude Lefever, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lefever, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Yockey, James Yockey, Mrs. J. D. Poling, Mary and Margaret, Sara Poling, Carol Allen, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Taylor, Janet and Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. James Womer, Mr. and Mrs. James Laughlin, Ronald Laughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Peterson, Ruth Hawver, Mrs. Fred Goodrich, Linda Eads.

SCENE No. 3—INDIAN INTERLUDE

It wasn't unusual, among these Indians, to find an Indian Princess. Sometimes, on a warm summer night, she would call to "her" Indian lover. This was an occasion for festivities—and perhaps an Indian marriage, with vows taken before the entire tribe.

CAST: Lani Drake and John Sebens.

SCENE No. 4—INTO THE WEST

The western tide of civilization brought the pioneering white man to the Sangamon. The Indians leave their camping grounds. The late afternoon sun light fades in the purple dust and the Indians were gone into the West, across the wide Mississippi to Missouri.

Horsemen: Carl Canull, Carl Eads, Robert Hettinger.

SCENE No. 5—EARLY AMERICANA

It was Christmas Day in 1853 when Joseph Bodman, L. B. Wing, and Henry Little, came upon the spot where Bement was to be located. The magnificent view that stretched before them was void of human habitation—no farms, or orchard; not a single solitary living thing. They had come to buy land and establish homes and they

did. The covered wagon train arrived with early settlers and a camp was made for the night.

CAST:

L. B. Wing—Earl Lincicum
Henry Little—Albert Larson
Joseph Bodman—Lynn Larson
Mrs. Bodman—Mrs. Louis A. Miller
Mrs. Little—Emily Marker

PIONEERS: Emily Hammond, Rose L. Stewart, E. S. Bodman, Alvina Bodman, May Hammond, Lillie Larson, Marietta Marker, David Marker, Steve Marker, Glenn Spearman, Junior Kirby, Jack Corum, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Wilson, Ella Swenson, Emily Marker, Melinda Marker, Peggy Marker, Betty Lincicum, Francis Lincicum, Dale Turner, Cora Turner, John Turner, Betty Hendrix, Noble Hendrix (child), Peggy Hendrix (child), Mrs. Lynn Crook, Mrs. Louis A. Miller, Fred Davies, Louis A. Miller, Mrs. Evelyn Mintun, Robert Fisher, David Fisher, Sue Fisher, Mrs. J. R. Bower, Edna Burgess, Jessie Burgess, Blake Livingston, Jeanette Wildman, Georgia Larson, Polly Larson, Lynn Tucker.

HORSEMEN: Herman Wood, Bob Morgan, Paul Hannon, Donald Hall, Irvin Beckhart, Bud Barnhart, Dale Norfleet, Larry Rogers, Clare Pfeffer.

SCENE No. 6—FIRST WEDDING

A wedding was a cause for rejoicing and especially so since this particular wedding was the first ceremony to be performed in the new settlement. Martha Hadsall and Thomas Bane were joined in wedlock by a traveling parson who was riding his circuit.

CAST:

Martha Hadsall, the Bride—Mrs. S. Royal
Thomas Bane, the Groom—Mr. S. Royal
Minister—Elton Haynes
Brides-maid—Betty Hendrix
Jumping Brother-in-law—Dale Turner
Brother-in-law's wife—Betty Lincicum

IN GROUP: Lillie Larson, Rose Stewart, Marietta Marker, David Marker, Steve Marker, Emily Marker, Mollie Van Gorder, Melinda Marker, Francis Lincicum, Cora Turner, Louis A. Miller, Fred Davies, Blake Livingston, Jeanette Wildman, Jessie Burgess.

HORSEMEN: Donald Hall, Bud Barnhart, Loren Rogers, Archie Rogers.

...SCENE No. 7—EARLY CHURCH

Where there is courage, such as displayed by our early pioneers, there is usually high religious ideas. We see the early settlers arriving to attend one of the first churches in our community, some are on foot, some are on horseback, while others come in farm wagons and buggies. In its simplicity, the scene is one of the most impressive as a composite service is held. Today there are many faiths in our community. In a community where democracy reigns, in religion as in politics, everyone worships according to the dictates of his own heart.

CAST.

Minister—Rev. David Scates
Horsemen—Clifford Willis, Dale Norfleet, Ervin Beckhart.

SCENE No. 8—SCHOOL

It was late in the Autumn of 1856 that Joseph Bodman, Aaron Yost and Henry Booth were elected directors to provide a school. The first school was held in the home of William Pickens. By 1859, the enrollment was such that it necessitated the construction of a two-story building which was completed in June 1859.

CAST:

Teacher—Helen Fay

SCHOOL KIDS: Charles Strayer, Jr., Steve Wallace, David Redman, Jim Fay, Glen Kitson, Roger Moery, Steve Rittenhouse, Charles Body, Jr., Steve Hendrix, Bill Tracy, Marvin Fairbank, Bernie Morris, Larry Burton, Steve

Wrench, Alan Fay, Alan L. Merry, Gus Wall, Sue Yates, Sue Siders, Jan Raglan, Judy Funk, Cynthia Dare, Donna Kitson, Margaret Fairbank, Brenda Morris, Sue Steidenger, Linda Burton, Paula Raglan, Susanne Coleman, Ellen Haynes, Eugenia Wright, Linda Funk, Janice Funk, Mary K. Body.

HORSEMAN: Larry Rogers.

SCENE No. 9—THE ARRIVAL OF THE IRON HORSE

The history of Bement and the history of the railroad are closely related, for it was the coming of the railroad that opened the territory to settlement. These were busy, hectic days, these first days of Bement, and as the railroad neared completion, excitement mounted, as the people eagerly awaited the completion of the Great Western Railroad.

CAST:

5 Trainmen—Herbert Burton, Jack Romack, Bob Romack, Joe Olinger Sr., Bill LeCrone
Fiddler: Jasper Burton
Caller—Russell Fritz
Lady—Mrs W. A. Drake

OTHERS: Floyd Larimore, Marion Fish, Marvin Fairbanks, Robert Postlewait, Don Livingston, William W. Redman, Mrs. William Redman, Bob Redman, Patty Bales, Sharet Ater, Billy Fritz, Billy Lash, Peggy Body, Mike Ball, Sunny Strohl, Tony Strohl, Sandy Strohl, Shirley Jones, Frances Redman, Linda LeCrone, Margaret Fairbanks, Ray Pruitt, Bob Morris, Billy Morris, Evelyn Fish, James Fish, Esther Livingston, Blake Livingston, Nancy Livingston, Glenna Jo Gorrell, Virginia Livingston, Ruby Fay, Clyde Fay, Alice Fay, Jerry Wildman, Zelma Morris, Willard Morris, Gerald Wildman, Elmnia Wildman, Roberta Larimore, Larry Dean Larimore, Eddie Walsh, Johnny Pope, Martha Postlewait, Audine Moery, John Moery, John Irvin Foran, Kathie Stoerger, Harold Redman, Wilma Redman, Steven Redman, Larry Wildman, Sharon Morton, Wilma Hinton, Judy Redman, Becky Morris, Bill Goodman, Dave Goodman, Jerry Stout, Jim Yockey, Duane Warner, Barbara Warner, Karen Jo Lux.

SCENE No. 10—LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

It was on a day in June, 1858, that Abraham Lincoln, the young attorney from Springfield, called at the home of F. E. Bryant. There, he met with the Honorable Stephen A. Douglas, and the groundwork was laid for the great debates between the two men. From these debates emerged Lincoln's question: "Can a Nation Exist Half Slave—Half Free?"

CAST:

Mr. Lincoln—Wayne Redman
Mr. Douglas—Wayne Sparks
Mr. Bryant—Carl Redman
Mrs. Bryant—Mrs. Wayne Sparks.

SCENE No. 11—THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

With the community experiencing an era of prosperity; good schools and churches, and the best in transportation, and industry, the war between the States was like a bolt from the blue—The nation was divided and war engulfed the people of our land. In the Bement area, there were the Williams' brothers, one of whom fought for the South and the other for the Union. The men of the Bement area quickly volunteered their services but the toll exacted from these brave men was high in blood: Oliver Kidney killed at Knoxville; Jonathan Ruble killed by Confederate guerillas; F. M. Wildman killed at Lost Mountain, Ga.; Benjamin Watts killed at Chattanooga; Gideon Blaxam missing at Chickamauga; James W. Terrill killed at Gasconada; plus many injured and wounded.

CAST:

Officer—

SOLDIERS: Jim Kirwan, Bob Gallivan, Dave Gallivan, Mike Gallivan, John Hannon, Jim O'Hara, Dave Hawkins, Stanley Courson, John Strater, Bill Hannon, John Forrestal, Frank Feeney, Lester Jamison, Jack Reeder.

WOMEN: Betty Miller, Margaret Wright, Catherine Ray, Flora Dye, Betty Lincicum, Velma Murphy, Marie Clark, Mrs. Bryan Wilson, Mrs. James Raglan.

SCENE No. 12—SCHOOL REBELLION

One condition of hiring teachers for these first early schools were that the boys and girls should be strictly disciplined—and the teachers' appearance and conduct should be above reproach. But it wasn't unusual to find a teacher and his assistant who proved unpopular with their students. As some of the boys "liked" school so much that they stayed on until they were 24 years old, they sometimes took matters into their own hands and disposed of the teachers as they saw fit.

CAST:

Teacher—Bill Gorrell
Ass't Teacher—Bradford Fristoe
Foreman—Raymond Dick
Bad Boy—Paul Larimore

Others: William Hendrix, Jack Plummer, Carl T. Redman, Floyd Larimore, Oscar Winzenburger

SCENE No. 13—TOWN MEETING

In 1882, a Town Meeting was held to determine what should be done towards draining the marshlands around Bement, which were causing so much ague and other sickness among the populace. Three commissioners, Alfred Jay, Samuel L. Busick, and Anthony Clark, were elected to undertake the arduous task of viewing the land, and determining the benefits to be derived from a drainage ditch. Three years were required to complete the project and the cost mounted to \$30,000, but the benefits derived down through the years have more than justified the action taken by those early settlers of Bement.

CAST:

Mr. Clark—Edw. Kanitz
Mr. Jay—Marion Durbin
Mr. Busick—E. E. Totten

Margaret Wright, Betty Miller, Catherine Ray, Selda Miller, Flora Dye, Betty Lincicum, Velma Murphy, Marie Clark, Mrs. Bryan Wilson, Mrs. James Raglan.

SCENE No. 14—THE GAY 90's

And so time sped into the future—and with a rush the turn of the century was upon the little communities of Bement, Ivesdale and Milmine—life changed for everyone—music, living conditions, the styles, the entertainment of the people became delightfully different. These were the days of the wasp waist, the leg o'mutton sleeve, and the Gibson girl—the day of the bicycle built for two and the surrey with the fringe on top—the bustle and the mustache.

CAST:

CAN CAN GIRLS: Shirley Shonkwiler, Madonna Foran, Judy Strohl, Pat Scott, Ann Wilkinson, Barbara Hodam.

BATHING BEAUTIES: Esther Livingston, Opal Morton, Roberta Larimore, Ruby Fay, Catherine Redman.

LIFE GUARDS: Floyd Larimore, Charles Body.

GERMAN BAND: Don Livingston, Bob Morris, Bill Morris, Joe Sapp, Larry Slater.

Cop—Willard Morton
Photographer—E. A. Stout
Balloon Man—Rev. Fleming
Medicine Man—Blake Livingston
Bad Boy—Bobby Carpenter

OTHERS: S. D. Body, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wright, Glenn Spearman, Becky Morris, Mrs. Willard Morris, Floy Hawver, Lelah Lamb, Nora Buckner, Grace Lefever, Shirley Lamb, Stella Moore, Flo Stout, Howard Moore, Elmer Haynes, Harry Lamb, Ola Haynes, Arbie L. Hawver, Bill Fish, Cora Fish, Willard Morton, Mrs. Charles Body, Charles Body, Jr., Mary K. Body, Sue Redman, Patty Redman, David Redman, Bill Larimore, Clyde Fay, Carl Redman, Clarence Lefever, Golda Funk, Ruth Abel, Guy Medaris, Willard Durbin, C. D. Spencer, Willard Morris, Hugh Fisher, Larry Larimore.

SCENE No. 15—WORLD WAR I

The year was 1914, and again the people of Bement, Ivesdale and Milmine heard the troubling sounds of war in the making. But this time it was in Europe—Three Thousand miles across the good old Atlantic Ocean!

CAST:

Mother and children—Hazel Liestman, Wardy Joe Dare, Ann Steidinger.

Bugler—Isadore Westfall.

Soldiers—Ralph L. Allison, Dick Merry, Ward Dare, George Swaim, Jr., Billie Burton, E. L. Peck, Melvin Spencer.

SCENE No. 16—"ROARIN' TWENTIES"

1925! Prosperity abounded! Real estate values soared—and Hollywood starlets and aviators were vieing for national attention. It was the era of flappers, bobbed hair, radio, flag pole sitters, Clara Bow and home brew. Money flowed like water! Let's take a look at "the get rich quick period."

CAST:

M.C.—Wayne Hill.
Flapper—Simone Drake.
Millionaire—Bob Jones.
Chauffeur—Earl Wright.
News Boy—Chuckie Knapp.

CHARLESTON DANCERS: Junior Kirby, Kay Steidinger, Ken Steidinger, Lotha Clark, Selby Clark, Linda Byerline, Kay Strohl, Sonya Clark, Robert Hodam, Sam Clark, Shirley Lamb, Mary Totten, Earl Medaris, Jeanne Jones, Jerry Stout, Ellen Wiggins, Jack Corum, Wayne Redman, Josephine Redman, Glenn Spearman, Sharon Morton, Wilma Eades, John Elder, Charles Strohl.

SCENE No. 17—THE ATOMIC AGE

The community's cause in World War II and the Korean conflict was so common to that of many communities throughout the United States—Many were the acts of untold valor performed by our sons in service, servicemen we salute you—We present in your honor the tableau of the most American of all pictures.

The day of March 17 will be a day long remembered by many of us for its our first look at an atomic explosion — We hope that it will be our pleasure only to see it as a simulated test and an experiment — The experiment is about to take place, and we ask that you who are witnessing the blast, please keep your eyes away from the bomb tower.

CAST:

MARINES on IWO JIMA: Bob Jeffers, Leo Foran, Chalmer Hinton, Kenneth Fry, Dave Dobson, Gordon Lindstrom.

SCIENTISTS: W. G. Porter, Alva E. Turner.

SOLDIERS: Harold Wallace, John Riddle, Babe Foran, Bernard Jarboe, Ralph Weathery, Bob Harper, Ed Foran, Lynn Royse, Eugene Wright, Homer Hinton.

SCENE No. 18—HALL OF FAME

Upon the occasion of so important an anniversary as our Centennial Celebration, it is indeed fitting that we pay homage to some of the men and women who over the years have built our communities and our country. It is our privilege to do so tonight.

Joseph Bodman, L. B. Wing, Joseph Alvord, John Mallory Camp, Francis E. Bryant, S. K. Bodman, Charles F. Tenney, George L. Spear, Horace Haldeman, Steve Hawks, W. G. Cloyd, William J. Day, W. W. Hammond, J. F. Sprague, Samuel L. Busick.

SCENE No. 19—FINALE

Tonight we have reviewed the past from the Indians and pioneers at Bement, Ivesdale and Milmine, to the happy filled days we live in today. We live amidst the bounty of the richest of farming lands, wonderfully developed. And we have at our doors the strength and genius of modern industry, constantly building for greater comforts, greater efficiencies.

Featuring **THE ENTIRE CENTENNIAL CAST**



Left to right — John R. Funk, C. O. Funk, Johnny Pope, Herb Hooper,
Raymond Noe, Cal Poundstone, Denny Probus, Earl Van Landingham,
Arbie Hawver

Centennial Congratulations

OF

C. O. FUNK & SON

BEMENT, ILLINOIS — PHONE 4501

SYMBOL
OF
SERVICE



TRACTORS - TRUCKS - PARTS - SERVICE
REFRIGERATORS - FREEZERS - AIR CONDITIONING

Finis

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all those fine people of Bement and community, as well as former residents and visiting friends and neighbors of Bement, who have contributed to the efforts necessary in making this Centennial a success. To name each deserving person is an impossibility, but each will have the satisfaction of realizing that a measure of the success is his. Only through the combined efforts of so many people working together unselfishly and in harmony could such a glorious celebration be accomplished. It is our wish to especially thank the officers, chairmen, and members of all the committees for their untiring efforts to make this celebration possible. We also want to thank all the people who helped prepare the material for this book.

As we write the final entries in this book, we can't help but think of the next 100 years . . . Abraham Lincoln once said: "I believe a man should be proud of the place in which he lives, and that he should so live that the place will be proud that he lived in it."

We have achieved a great community spirit during this Centennial Celebration. Let's keep it alive! Let's make Bement an even better place in which to live! There must be many things about Bement that you like or you wouldn't call Bement your home — so be a booster, not a knocker! Boost Bement for the things you like about it, and do something about the things you don't like. Don't sit back and say: "Let George do it."

Errors of omission, typographical errors, misspellings and oversights of this book will be rectified and acknowledged in the next Centennial Book to be published in the year 2055. Please contact the committee at that time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Wm. Phillips". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Francis Wm. Phillips, Chairman
Historical Book Committee



Congratulations Bement!

We salute a century old Community, served by us for more than 50 years. During this time we have grown and prospered in this God's Prairie Land.

This has been made possible by the continued trust which has been shown us year after year by the good people of the Bement community and surrounding territory.

May we continue to merit your confidence and patronage as we enter a new century.

OFFICERS

RALPH MOERY, SR., President
WAYNE REDMAN, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Frank Totten, D. P. Rittenhouse, Frank Lux, Sr., Francis Tracy,
Wayne Redman, Ralph Moery, Sr., E. E. Lamb

EMPLOYEES

Esther Mull, Wyman Patterson, Robert Danielson, Orval Jeffers,
Arthur Knowles, Eastle Hutson, Emmett Fritz

GLEN DURBIN, Manager

BEMENT GRAIN CO.

BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Organized Jan. 1903

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